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Arab-Israeli Talks

Delegates Comment on Mutual Recognition Agreement

TA0909182093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1635 GMT 9 September 93

[Text] The meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Washington has ended. Our correspondent Udi Segal reports from the State Department:

[Segal] The last plenary meeting of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations ended here at the State Department a short while ago, concluding this round of talks. Eytan Bentzur, the head of the Israeli delegation, said he is concluding 20 months of strenuous work that included both sides becoming familiar with one other and the difficulties involved. I am convinced that the agreement with the Palestinians is a direct result of the rounds of negotiations, and we find ourselves on the threshold of a dramatic and historic turning point. Bentzur told Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and the rest of the Palestinian delegation members: It is the beginning of new hope, and we will continue to maintain the interests of Israelis in the territories, and I am convinced you will act to promote your administrative responsibility. I hope that the continued process will not be accompanied by violence and will not be disrupted. Upon leaving the State Department Eytan Bentzur stated:

[Begin Bentzur recording] In retrospect, it seems that the poignant and thorough talks conducted in Washington were tantamount to a first-rate confidence-building measure on the road to reconciliation and peace between ourselves and the Palestinians. We said that we are now working out the details that will lead to implementing the agreement. We will conduct the negotiations, taking utmost care to maintain the interests of the State of Israel, while taking the Palestinians' needs into full consideration, wholeheartedly wishing that upon the start of the self-government stage they will manage to run their affairs effectively, on behalf of the Palestinian public. [end recording]

[Segal] Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation, said upon leaving the State Department that mutual Israeli-PLO recognition is an important and significant development. Nevertheless, he repeated his position that the agreement of principles includes problematic clauses which are incompatible with the Palestinians' objectives.

Negotiations on the implementation of the agreement will follow its signing, and I hope that my opinion will change in these negotiations, 'Abd-al-Shafi said, adding that he knows it will be Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres who will sign the agreement in Washington on Monday [13 September] on behalf of the Israeli side, but that he does not know which of the senior PLO officials will sign on behalf of the Palestinian side. When questioned about the intifadah, 'Abd-al-Shafi answered: The intifadah will not stop until people feel that actions are being taken to end the occupation, which is the reason for the uprising. I would like to stress, he said, that we are committed to peace, but there should be progress also on the other tracks—including the Syrian track—alongside the Palestinian one.

'Ashrawi, Sha'th Comment

TA0909212693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1950 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Report by Washington correspondent Udi Segal; 'Ashrawi and Sha'th remarks in English followed by Segal's translation—recorded]

[Text] Quite emotional pronouncements—particularly when compared to the statements they made last week and earlier this week—could be heard today among the Palestinian delegates to the peace talks regarding the agreement on mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO to be signed on Monday [13 September] in the White House. Speaking at a news conference, Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian declaration, said that the complex process—mediated by the Norwegian foreign minister and leading to official recognition between Israel and the PLO—will actually come to an end tomorrow morning. The document itself is not ideal, she said, but it is an opening point for the upcoming negotiations.

At the end of the news conference, 'Ashrawi talked about her personal point of view concerning the document.

['Ashrawi] It's a mixture, perhaps of hope, of (?awe), and of apprehension, because I recognize the significance of the moment, the import of the moment. I recognize that it needs tremendous work, and it is a very difficult moment. This is where the real work starts.

Talking about her personal feelings, 'Ashrawi said: I hope we will rise to the challenge in order to establish a Palestinian state based on humanitarian principles.

'Ashrawi was asked about what will happen with the intifadah. She reiterated the position expounded earlier this morning by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi when he emerged from the State Department, to the effect that the intifadah will not stop until its causes—namely, the occupation—end and until action is taken in the field that will make it clear to the people that the occupation is about to end.

Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat's political adviser, is in Washington and also referred to the intifadah, albeit in clearer terms. He said that henceforth actions will be peaceful. These actions will actually bring an end to the violence, he said. Nevertheless, he did not explicitly say that the intifadah would stop.

We asked Sha'th: Does the fact that the PLO and Israel are signing an agreement of mutual recognition indicate that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin actually accepts the Palestinians' right to return to their land? This is what Nabil Sha'th replied:

[Sha'th] It is a recognition of the Palestinian people inside and outside occupied territory; of their right to have their own leadership and to have their own aspirations. Now, there is a difference between aspirations and implementation. We'll all carry out rights and our aspirations to the negotiating table, and on the negotiating table we'll agree on how to accomplish everything in a peaceful way. I mean, this is what we have to do on the negotiating table.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 9 September adds: "Nabil Sha'th said this evening: We have achieved an agreement on real peace, based on justice, equality, and cooperation."

["Hanan 'Ahsrawi stated in a news conference in Washington that the agreement on mutual recognition is a breakthrough in the peace process which will lead to a change in the Middle East.

["Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the spokesman of the Jordanian delegation indirectly voiced satisfaction with the agreement.

["Reacting to the endorsement of the Israeli-PLO agreement, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich said this is the first breakthrough in the peace process."]

Al-'Allaf Questions Need for 14 Sep Talks With Israel

JN0909183593 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Arab delegations to the peace talks held their sixth meeting with the Israeli side today, winding up the second week of the 11th round, which was originally set to conclude on 14 September.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, declared that during today's meeting with the Israeli side, it will be made clear whether a final meeting will be held on Monday [13 September] or whether today's meeting will be the last meeting in this round.

Denies Reports of Phased Withdrawal Plan

JN0909210993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has announced the meetings held during the second week of the 11th round of peace talks with the Israeli side concluded today without achieving any results.

In a statement to reporters at the conclusion of today's meeting, al-'Allaf said discussions at this meeting continued to address the same topics discussed during the three meetings held this week. Al-'Allaf attributed the lack of progress during this round of talks to the failure on Israel's part to commit itself to complete withdrawal, which is a prerequisite for agreement on the other steps required by the peace process.

Al-'Allaf strongly denied reports circulating to the effect that an agreement has been reached over a two-phased plan for Israeli troop withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan. When queried on whether or not the final meeting of this round of talks will be held on Monday as scheduled, al-'Allaf said that this issue has not been discussed at all.

'Harsh Exchanges' in Israeli-Lebanese Talks 9 Sep

TA0909212993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] There were harsh exchanges today in the talks between the Israeli and Lebanese delegations. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation, presented a draft formula for a joint declaration of principles dealing—among other things—with the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both countries. The document also included their commitment to attain a comprehensive and just peace agreement on the basis of the Madrid Conference.

Lubrani said Israel took this step after despairing of receiving a pertinent reply from the Lebanese to the proposals raised so far.

The Lebanese accepted the new document, and retorted with a paper in which they demand that before the talks resume Israel must fulfill UN Resolutions 425 and 426.

Shammas Says New Paper Presented

NC1009064293 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Parallel to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, the Israeli delegation offered its Lebanese counterpart a formula for a joint declaration of principles during yesterday's round of talks in Washington. What does Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, say about this?

[Begin Shammas recording] We tried very hard to analyze the contents, objectives, and meanings of the words and ideas contained in the Israeli paper to determine what we could accept and what we would reject. We posed many questions and queries. We found out that the Israelis ultimately consider the security arrangements as the basis of their paper and that achieving such arrangements and, subsequently, a peace agreement remains the central Israeli position and the main objective of the paper. When we reached this particular stage, especially in yesterday's session when the Israeli position became absolutely clear to us, we decided, at the instructions of the Lebanese Government, to present a new Lebanese paper in a serious attempt to make progress. We accepted the idea of establishing a joint Lebanese-Israeli military committee provided that its mission would be to program the Israeli withdrawal to the internationally recognized borders with Lebanon. [end recording]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Welcomes Mutual Recognition

NC1009100493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0922 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, today said that the mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO is an important and positive move that is in harmony with the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The Arab League welcomes this move, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said. He added that the Arab League stresses the need for continued efforts on all the other tracks of the peace talks to achieve a just and lasting peace in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of exchanging land for peace.

The move will result in legitimate contacts between the PLO and Israel aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said. He pointed out that peace and stability in the region will boost development efforts and increase prosperity in the region.

Comments on Boycott, Aid to Palestinians

NC0909203593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said the Arab League is willing to extend any assistance to deal with the ramifications of the peace process in every sphere.

Asked if the Arab finance and economy ministers discussed providing financial aid to the transitional Palestinian authority at their meeting today, 'Abd-al-Majid said no financial plan to support the Palestinian or Arab economy after an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho was discussed. He said that would be premature.

He stated that the next meeting of the Arab League Council to be held on the foreign minister level will provide an opportunity to discuss several Arab issues that are being raised.

He again denied reports on abolishing the Arab boycott of Israel. He said the boycott continues and that it is a permanent topic on the League Council's agenda as long as Israel occupies Arab territories. He said pan-Arab security will be discussed at the next council meeting.

In statements after meeting the Arab finance and economy ministers and specialist Arab League organizations at the League headquarters this evening, 'Abd-al-Majid said they discussed all the issues concerning the specialist Arab organizations and that a study will be prepared to assess their performance and develop them.

He urged that these organizations represent a consortium of expertise for the Arab governments to secure the necessary financial resources. He called on the Arab governments to pay their dues to these organizations to enable them to perform their role in supporting joint Arab action.

Asked about the [word indistinct] of the Arab islands that belong to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the League's stance on this issue is clear; it supports the UAE Government in its sovereignty over these three islands—Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra.

'Abd-al-Majid, Sudan Envoy Discuss U.S. Decision

NC0909140493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1211 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received a letter from Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, when he received Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih, who is visiting Cairo.

After their meeting, Dr. Abu-Salih said he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid discussed the American decision to place Sudan on the list of countries harboring terrorism. He said he hoped Sudan will receive Arab League backing in its attempts to rectify the situation and change the American decision.

He said the American decision is unjust, neither studied nor based on fact. It needs to be reviewed.

The Sudanese foreign minister said he discussed the American decision on Sudan when President Husni Mubarak received him today in his capacity as the current president of the OAU and since Egypt is the big sister neighboring Sudan.

Asked about Sudan's request to place the issue of the American decision to put Sudan on the list of countries harboring terrorism on the agenda of the Arab Foreign Ministers Council's session on 19 September, he said: Perhaps Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid will present the issue to the meeting, which is an early opportunity for him to do so.

On developing negotiations between the Sudanese Government and the rebels in south Sudan, Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih said a committee of the presidents of Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Kenya has been formed chaired by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi to work on finding a peaceful solution between the two sides.

He said agreement was reached to form this committee during meetings held in Addis Ababa recently.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Signs Document on Recognizing Israel

LD0909233293 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] A few moments ago Yasir 'Arafat signed the document on the PLO's recognition of Israel. The document was signed after it received the go-ahead from the PLO Executive Committee and after the Israeli cabinet endorsed the document on Israel's recognition of the PLO. This document will probably be signed by Prime Minister Rabin tomorrow morning.

Further on Signing

LD0909234293 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Excerpt] The PLO and Israel today reached agreement on the final formula for mutual recognition. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department and the PLO's official spokesman, announced in an telephone interview with the Radio Tunis newsroom this afternoon that an agreement had been reached on mutual recognition.

We also learned a few moments ago that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat tonight signed the document on the PLO's recognition of Israel, according to statements to AFP by Bassam Abu-Sharif, one of Yasir 'Arafat's advisers.

Arafat's signing of the text of the agreement comes after receiving the go-ahead tonight from the PLO Executive Committee, which met in Tunis. In this meeting the Executive Committee focused on the document on mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel. The signing of the recognition document was announced immediately at the end of an extended meeting of the PLO Executive Committee that lasted for more than five hours in Tunis tonight.

Bassam Abu-Sharif indicated that the meeting ended with a positive result. However, 'Arafat's adviser did not elaborate. He added that the discussions dealt with the two main topics on the agenda: the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel and the agreement on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories. He also said that the discussions were lively. [passage omitted]

'Text' of PLO Letter

JN1009062393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0537 GMT 10 Sep 93

["Text" of letter of "recognition" sent by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin; date not given]

[Text] Mr. Prime Minister:

The signing of the joint Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles heralds a new era in the history of the Middle East. For this reason and from the premise of a firm belief in this, I would like to confirm the following PLO commitments:

1. The PLO recognizes the State of Israel's right to exist in peace and security.

2. The organization accepts UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

3. The organization is committed to the peace process in the Middle East and to a peaceful solution of the conflict between the two parties, and announces that all pending issues on the permanent status will be solved through negotiations.

4. The organization views the signing of the joint declaration of principles as a historic event that opens a new era of peaceful coexistence, free from violence and from any other action that endangers peace and stability. From this premise, the organization renounces the recourse to terrorism and other acts of violence, and takes responsibility for all its elements and members in securing their compliance, to prevent violations and to hold violators to account.

In light of the commitment to the new era and the signing of the Declaration of Principles, and in accordance with the Palestinian acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the PLO confirms that all clauses in the Palestinian Charter that deny Israel's right to exist, and the paragraphs in the Charter that are not in harmony with the commitments in this letter, are no longer valid, do no exist, and will no longer be in effect. Thus, the PLO pledges to present to the Palestine National Council the necessary amendments to the Palestinian Charter for official approval.

Signed: Yasir 'Arafat

'Arafat Comments on Accord

NC0909220193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2134 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—In an interview with Egyptian television tonight, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said that after the Palestinian-Israeli accord is signed, the situation will improve tangibly and the Palestinian detainees will be released (?immediately).

He said peace requires courageous people, and we want [words indistinct] work for the peace of the brave, in the same way peace was achieved between the Americans and Vietnamese in Vietnam, in Algeria, and in South Africa between de Clerk and Nelson Mandela. He added: I hope the measures to implement this peace will take place between us and the Israelis for the sake of our children and their (?children) so that they can live in peace, security, and prosperity.

He said: The accord that has been reached is an agreement on the declaration of principles that the Palestinians have been talking about for (?22) years, and any inch

the Israelis withdraw from is a gain for the Palestinian people. The Palestinian flag will fly over this Palestinian land from which the Israeli Army will withdraw.

'Arafat said that at the same time as the beginning of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, [word indistinct] transitional rule will (?begin) in the rest of the Palestinian territories and that nine months later, elections will be held that [words indistinct] all the Palestinian territories.

On the Arab League Council meetings scheduled for 19 September, 'Arafat said they will be among the most important meetings that [word indistinct] this issue in all its aspects, not only the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

He noted that some loopholes are bound to exist, but (?we) thank God for what has been achieved. He said: I implore God that we may soon pray in al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

PLO's 'Abbas: 'Arafat To Visit Jordan Next Week

JN1009094993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Sep 93 p 1

[Text] Tunis—Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, announced in a telephone interview with AL-DUSTUR, that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is, and will remain, greater than any agreement and above any differences.

'Abbas added that the joint committees are carrying out their work as planned, on the Jordanian and Palestinian levels, to discuss this relationship in the interim period and to prepare the formula for their work when confederation—which he described as the fate of the two people—is endorsed.

Abu-Mazin said: Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan next week to explain the background and the future of the historic agreement between the PLO and the Israeli Government.

He noted that 'Arafat did not visit Amman during the past few days, because His Majesty King Husayn was abroad.

PLO Central Council To Ratify Agreements 20 Sep

NC1009100993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Responsible Palestinian sources in Cairo have disclosed that the PLO Central Council will meet in Tunisia on 20 September to ratify the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles. The sources told MENA that the Council will also endorse the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Hails 'New Beginning' After Recognition

NC1009114893 Paris AFP in English 1044 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Sept 10 (AFP)—Faysal al-Husayni, the leading Palestinian in the occupied territories, hailed a "new beginning" on Friday [10 September] after Israel and the PLO recognized each other.

"This agreement turns a new page and a new beginning by putting on an equal footing the state of Israel and the PLO, the representative of the Palestinian people," he told AFP at the headquarters of the Palestinian peace delegation he fronts in East Jerusalem.

"The most important step which must follow recognition is the change in Israeli thinking," he said.

"I cannot imagine after the recognition that our children can still be detained in Israeli prisons and that the deportees can remain outside."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin signed Israel's official recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization on Friday, after PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat recognized Israel overnight in Tunis.

Al-Husayni called for Israel to lift a ban on Palestinians travelling into Jerusalem as part of a blanket ban on entry into Israel.

"I hope that in the coming hours we will see a different attitude at the entrance to Jerusalem," he said. The army put road blocks on the main roads into the eastern sector, which Israel annexed in 1967, about five months ago after a wave of murders of Jews.

Al-Husayni said there was no need for him to attend the ceremony in Washington on Monday for the signing of the historic autonomy agreement which will see the Palestinians begin to run their own lives in the Gaza Strip and Jericho from October 13.

"There is no need for me to be there if a PLO representative attends," he said.

The two leading Palestinian newspapers in East Jerusalem printed Friday dozens of advertisements from prominent people and associations in the occupied territories supporting 'Arafat and the PLO.

Territories Notables React to Recognition Accord

TA1009123993 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 10 Sep 93 p 5

[Report by Fayiz 'Abbas and ITIM]

[Text] The following are reactions by several Arab notables in the territories to the Israel-PLO mutual recognition agreement:

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj: "We are living in a historic period of reconciliation and mutual recognition.

We must congratulate 'Arafat and Rabin on this courageous step. I have always called for mutual recognition between the two nations. I thank the Lord for living to see this day."

Dr. Sari Nusaybah: "I am happy that the two sides have managed to reach mutual recognition, and I hope that this move will eventually lead to permanent peace. I believe that the acts of violence will end once the population of the territories realizes that this is no longer called for. I believe that a Palestinian state will eventually be established, because this is inevitable. I am sure that when this stage comes, people in Israel will not oppose it."

Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine: "I reject the mutual recognition. Israel imposed its conditions on the PLO. By accepting these conditions, the PLO has divested itself of all its real values and has turned into a new organization. I also do not accept the call to return to normal life and halt the violence."

Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, the first Israeli Arab appointed as an adviser to 'Arafat: "I do not rule out the possibility that Israeli Arabs will be appointed as advisers and aides to the PLO leadership."

Poll: 60 Percent of Camp Residents Reject Accord

JN0909142993 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 8 Sep 93 p 3

[Excerpt] Palestinians in Jordan reject the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, according to a first-of-its-kind poll conducted by AL- BILAD in five Palestinian camps: al-Baq'ah, al-Wahdat, al-Husayn, Hittin, and 'Azmi al-Mufti. The poll surveyed a random sample of 390 men and women among camp residents.

The poll showed that Palestinian public opinion in the camps is divided, and that 60 percent are against the agreement.

The poll asked two questions:

- Are you for or against the Gaza-Jericho First?
- Will you return to Gaza and Jericho if you were given the right to return?

Of 390 people polled, 222 (56.9 percent) said they oppose the agreement, while 151 (38.7 percent) said they support it. Also, 118 people (30 percent) said they would return to Gaza and Jericho or other occupied territories if they were given the right to return.

The poll gauged the views of 1948 and 1967 refugees. Contrary to expectations, the 1948 refugees were more in favor of the agreement than the 1967 refugees, although many people in the latter category come from Gaza and Jericho.

The ages of those polled ranged from 12 to 76. Answers indicated, moreover, that people between 12-35 years were more inclined to reject the agreement, while older people tended to support it. Young people were also more enthusiastic about returning to Gaza and Jericho, while the older generation were uncertain whether or not they would go back.

Schoolboys, university students, laborers, merchants, physicians, engineers, pharmacists, and employees participated in the poll.

The most forthright rejection of the accord came from al-Baq'ah camp, probably because of the obvious religious inclinations and sympathy with the Hamas movement, which has rejected the accord.

Judging by the figures in the poll, it can be said that residents of Palestinian camps in Jordan, who are the major party concerned with this agreement, are not convinced of its viability, in the short or long run.

Some of the people polled were afraid their names might be published. Some would not even answer the questions, fearing this could anger the Jordanian intelligence or the Fatah security agencies. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi Views Call for Post-Agreement 'Mini-Summit'

NC0909161093 Paris AFP in English 1535 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Tunis, Sept 9 (AFP)—The PLO has called for an Arab "mini-summit" to discuss a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement in the light of its agreement with Israel, the organisation's political chief said on Thursday [9 September].

Faruq Qaddumi was speaking after the announcement of a mutual recognition agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to end 30 years of hostility.

He said the summit would be attended by the Israel's Arab partners in the Middle East peace talks—Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Palestinians—as well as Egypt "to discuss a global political settlement" in the Middle East.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will be going to Egypt for talks with President Husni Mubarak, Qaddumi added without providing a date for the visit.

A delegation of the PLO's executive committee, its government-in-exile, will also go to Jordan and Lebanon within the next week to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian accord on limited autonomy in the occupied territories.

"The Palestinian leadership is very anxious to avoid taking any initiative which could weaken its Arab partners in the negotiations," with Israel, Qaddumi said.

Israel hopes that the deal on autonomy, starting in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, will be signed Monday in Washington, where the Middle East peace talks are under way.

Qaddumi said the signing of the accord could be delayed "to allow us to consult our Arab partners."

"We're doing everything we can to avoid a separate accord," he said.

Lebanon and Syria have criticised the Palestinians for striking a separate deal with Israel, saying it would weaken their negotiating position.

Qaddumi is opposed to signing a "partial or interim deal" with Israel and has rejected suggestions by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat that he would represent the organisation at the signing ceremony.

PFLP, DFLP Executive Committee Representatives Resign

JN1009113193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], led by George Habash, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], led by Nayif Hawatimah, announced in a joint statement today the resignation of their representatives in the PLO Executive Committee—Taysir Khalid for the DFLP and 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh for the PFLP. The PFLP and DFLP representatives boycotted the PLO Executive Committee's meeting held in Tunis yesterday as the two fronts objected to the self-rule agreement in its present formula.

Groups Say Accord Not Legitimate

JN1009110693 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0948 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] A joint spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has made the following statement: To judge by Zionist pronouncements and laws, it is a virtual certainty that the mutual recognition text between the enemy government and the authoritarian wing of the PLO leadership, commits the Palestinian side to put a halt to the intifadah, suppress the mass movement in the occupied territory, and face-off against any forces or persons that seek to carry on the intifadah and resist occupation.

The joint statement added: The Rabin-'Arafat accord is binding neither on the Palestinian people nor on the PLO, and so it has no Palestinian legitimacy. The organization to which the Zionist entity extended recognition is not the one that amounted to an umbrella sheltering the entire Palestinian people, the statement said.

Al-Rantisi Pledges Nonviolent Opposition to Accord

JN0909171993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1624 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur, by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi; from the "With the Events" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi in Marj al-Zuhur, good evening.

[Al-Rantisi] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz: How many deportees have left Marj al-Zuhur for the Zammarayya crossing point?

[Al-Rantisi] There are 181 deportees.

[Mu'addi] Why have eight deportees whose repatriation to the territories was approved by the Israeli authorities failed to return with this batch of deportees?

[Al-Rantisi] I learned from them that upon their return, they will spend a long time in jail. Consequently, they prefer to spend the next three months in Marj al-Zuhur, outside jail.

[Mu'addi] According to the information available to you, have all the deportees crossed the Lebanese-Israeli border on their way to the territories?

[Al-Rantisi] Yes, they have all crossed the border. I bade them farewell. I saw them crossing the Zammarayya crossing point.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz: You are well aware that the repatriation of the deportees is taking place amid fast-breaking political developments that herald changes in the current state of affairs. How would you handle the new realities?

[Al-Rantisi] We are opposed to the recent PLO-Israeli agreement. At the same time, we are opposed to any intra-Palestinian strife in which Palestinian blood could be shed. Consequently, we will oppose this agreement. However, our opposition to this agreement will not be expressed through the use of violence. We consider anyone who sheds Palestinian blood to be a traitor.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi: Have you been informed that a delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] will visit the remaining deportees in Marj al-Zuhur to conduct medical checkups on them?

[Al-Rantisi] We have been informed of this by the ICRC. We have been told that an ICRC delegation will come to our site tomorrow, Friday [10 September], morning to examine the sick deportees in Marj al-Zuhur. The delegation might evacuate some of the sick deportees who are now in dire need of medical treatment.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the deportees, thank you very much.

[Al-Rantisi] Thanks.

PFLP-GC's Jibril: Confrontation Will Continue

JN1009115193 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0937 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] In an interview with the WCN television network [not further identified], French Television Channel 2, and REUTER, Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following on the mutual recognition between the 'Arafat command and the Zionist enemy:

It goes without saying that this day is a black day in the history of the Palestinian people and of the Arab and Islamic nation because the signing and the agreement represent a full acknowledgment of the Balfour Declaration that was granted to the Jews in 1917. He added: The acknowledgment of the results of the Zionist invasion of Palestine in 1948 also constitutes an acknowledgment of the Zionist invasion of the remaining land of Palestine and of the Arabs in 1967. We say that this agreement does not bind our Palestinian and Arab people. This agreement enjoys no legitimacy. This agreement is with individuals who claim they represent the Palestinian people. What takes place now has to do with the future of our nation and of our Palestinian people. This means that the Palestinian people's approval is needed.

Ahmad Jibril added: We say that our people will continue with their confrontation. We will prove to the world that 'Arafat is not capable of protecting the Zionist settlers in Gaza, Jericho and in all of Palestine. The days to come will prove this.

Ahmad Jibril said: 'Arafat has recognized the Zionist entity on the land of Palestine, while the enemy army, as Rabin has stated, will stay on the Jordan River [words indistinct]. 'Arafat has agreed to become a policeman to protect the Zionist enemy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril went on to say: There is no doubt that Rabin and Peres have explicitly stated: We will help 'Arafat to keep the security situation under control and there are joint committees belonging to 'Arafat and the Zionists to keep the security situation under control. By this, they mean they want to halt the intifadah and the fighting against the Zionists. There is no doubt that 'Arafat will manage to check some of the popular intifadah's manifestations, but he will not succeed in preventing the killing of Zionists in Gaza and Jericho. That's why he will carry out large-scale repressive actions and killings, because he wants to prove to his Zionist and American masters that he is strong and that he will not fail the test. He tells them: I have had previous experience in Lebanon, and I succeeded in it.

Ahmad Jibril added: We will try with all means to avoid this civil war for which 'Arafat is planning. We will continue to confront the Zionist enemy. At first, we will suffer the injustice and the tyranny that 'Arafat will carry out. However, this does not mean that we will remain silent for long. We will reply to him with the means we deem fit at the time. We hope this will not take place, and we hope to exchange stands with 'Arafat, meaning he would tell the Zionists: I cannot restrain these people, and I am doing what I can. These people want your departure for good. They want the return of Jerusalem. 'Arafat, then, will be required to submit his resignation.

Terms Accord 'Sugar-Coated Poison'

JN0909164493 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1016 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Brothers, the German television station has conducted an interview with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]. The interview focused on the treasonous agreement 'Arafat has concluded with the Zionists. The German television's team asked Ahmad Jibril the following question: What is your stand toward the agreement 'Arafat concluded with Israel?

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril said: [Begin Jibril recording] Concerning the Gaza-Jericho agreement, we tell Mr. 'Arafat that this agreement does not enjoy the Palestinian people's approval. The Palestinian people must be polled on this agreement. Mr. 'Arafat should not say he represents the Palestinian people. [passage omitted] We say this is not a peace agreement, because peace must be based on justice. This agreement has nothing to do with justice. This is a submission on the part of 'Arafat. This agreement will collapse, sooner or later. This is from a principled point of view. However, from a realistic, pragmatic point of view, we believe this accord poses a direct threat. We believe that if the Palestinian people and the Arab nation accept such an agreement, they will fool themselves and inflict losses on themselves. Nothing in this agreement stipulates the elimination of Israeli settlements from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. This means this agreement views the West Bank and Gaza Strip as disputed territories. [passage omitted]

The whole story is that the Israelis have entrenched their settlements and the dictum that Jerusalem must be united and a capital for the State of Israel. The statements of 'Arafat and his clique in this regard are meant for local consumption and propaganda purposes.

The clauses and annexes of the accord are very clear. They are unjust to the Palestinian people. There is nothing in this agreement about the Palestinian people's right of repatriation. There are about four million Palestinians in the diaspora. There is nothing in the agreement that gives them the right to return to Palestine. There is nothing about the return of the Palestinians

expelled from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967, who number 280,000. There is nothing about their return.

Just examine these paradoxes. They say this is an agreement on a just peace. However, it is unjust and denies the right of 4 million Palestinians. For example, I am one of those who were expelled from Palestine when I was 10 years old. When we call for the right of return to Palestine, we are considered terrorists, idealists, extremists, and unrealistic. However, this Jew, who has been living in Baku or the Ukraine for thousands of years, has the right to come to Palestine and to live on our land. They claim that this is realistic and that we should understand this. We also say that from a realistic point of view, this agreement is sugar-coated poison. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ahmad Jibril also said: We will pursue our battle against this enemy by all means. Our organization, the PFLP-GC, has been carrying arms for 30 years. Our people have offered hundreds of thousands of martyrs. We fought for the sake of our return to Haifa and Yafo. Here, in the al-Yarmuk camp, south of Damascus, Palestinians offered more than 5,000 martyrs during a quarter of a century. What can we say to the families of these martyrs? We have no choice but to pursue struggle.

In his interview with German television, PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril said: I advise and tell the Western communities not to be deceived by this game and not to believe that the Middle East is heading toward peace and prosperity. These communities must not be so enthusiastic. I say that what has happened was an attempt to perpetuate injustice on and persecute the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nations. This agreement will ignite a popular revolution. This agreement is aimed at imposing U.S. hegemony and control. The objective of this agreement is to shackle the awakening Germany and Europe. We are not the only target. After this, it will go to the Gulf to tighten the grip on Iran's neck, because America seeks to impose its hegemony on the world. The civilized world should be aware of the objectives of the U.S. avarice. All the people of the world should close ranks and be aware of these facts.

Dissident Groups Reject Accord, Threaten 'Arafat

Anti-Israel Attacks Promised

NC1009114393 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1105 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Excerpts] The Central Committee of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, al-'Asifah, said that in consultation with the Palestinian national forces it will set up a national court to try 'Arafat and his team for their recognition of the enemy. It said the recognition is a betrayal of the Palestinian people's sacrifices, and, consequently, the Palestinians are not concerned with any of the consequences. [passage omitted]

Munir al-Miqdah, commander of Fatah forces in Lebanon, threatened to escalate attacks to crush the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Palestinian fedayeen are now being prepared to carry out certain operations against Israel, he said.

Fatah-the Revolutionary Council, led by Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], today threatened to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat over the agreement with Israel. In a statement distributed in Beirut, the organization said that 'Arafat perpetrated a treasonous act. It said the organization, out of its national responsibility, announced its intention to shed 'Arafat's blood. The statement called the PLO chairman a traitor.

'Arafat Accused of 'High Treason'

JN1009105293 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0943 GMT 10 Sep 93

["Text" of political statement by the dissident Fatah Movement Central Committee at end of a meeting held on 9 September; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The [dissident] Fatah Movement's Central Committee held an extraordinary meeting on 9 September 1993 following the annoucement by traitor Yasir 'Arafat that he recognizes the Zionist entity. The Central Committee adopted several important decisions that serve our people and their national struggle. The committee views this treasonous step as follows:

1. This recognition is a national and pan-Arab treason against the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nation.

2. This recognition is a betrayal of the sacrifices of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, and of the blood of the hundred thousands martyrs and wounded over a century of struggle and jihad against this imperialist-Zionist plan.

3. This recognition, which took place between the Zionist entity and traitors from the Palestinian people, does not concern our Palestinian people and does not bind them with respect to any results that it entails on all the regional and international levels.

4. This recognition seeks, among other objectives, to liquidate the PLO. However, in reality it does not represent the PLO and its national charter, which emphasizes struggle and jihad for the liberation of the entire Palestinian soil.

5. This recognition also means abandoning the affiliation to the Arab nation and moving to the Zionist trench, which seeks to fragment this nation to secure its submission and plunder its resources.

6. We clarify to our masses and our Arab nation that the Zionist entity's recognition of 'Arafat and his team, in reality, does not mean the recognition of the PLO, or of the Palestinian people's rights. It means providing this treasonous team with direct protection and facilitating

its role in liquidating our people's brave intifadah as a prelude to the liquidation of our national and pan-Arab cause.

7. In view of all this, the Fatah Central Committee announces to our Palestinian people everywhere and to our Arab and Islamic nation that Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Qudwah, known as Yasir 'Arafat, has committed high treason against the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nation. Therefore, and proceeding from its national responsibilities, principles, and objectives, which call for confronting and resisting this treasonous recognition by all means, the Fatah Central Committee sanctions the shedding of the blood of traitor 'Arafat for the sake of Palestine, its martyrs, its intifadah, the pains of its people, and the sacrifices of the Arab and Islamic nation for the sake of Palestine.

8. The Fatah Central Committee will hold consultations with the national Palestinian forces to form a national court to try 'Arafat and his team, who recognized the Zionist enemy, and to try all those who accept and cover up this recognition within the PLO institutions.

9. We call our brothers in the 10 factions to quickly hold discussions with national forces and personalities to form a temporary PLO national leadership in order to shoulder national responsibility in this delicate stage facing our people and their national forces following 'Arafat's and his team's recognition of the Zionist entity.

10. The Fatah Central Committee affirms to our Palestinian masses and our Arab and Islamic nation that the fate of Palestine cannot be decided by a clique of traitors and capitulators; it is decided by our people's determination to continue struggle and jihad. In this context, our movement pledges to you and to all our Arab nation's martyrs, who fell on the path of liberation, that it will continue the march of struggle to liberate all Palestine.

It is a revolution until victory.

Fatah-Uprising Calls For 'Arafat's Murder

NC1009091993 Paris AFP in English 0852 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Damascus, Sept 10 (AFP)—A radical Palestinian group on Friday [10 September] called for the assassination of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat for signing a document officially recognising Israel.

'Arafat "has committed major treason against the Palestinian people, the Arab and Islamic nation, and because of that Fatah the Uprising [led by Sa'id Musa Muragha, a.k.a. Abu-Musa] is announcing that his blood will be shed," the group said in a statement here.

Egypt

Cairo Details Clinton Phone Call to Mubarak

NC0909204293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton this evening. They discussed details of the PLO-Israeli agreement on mutual recognition, developments in the Arab-Israeli negotiations, and talks with the PLO on mutual recognition.

Mubarak Hails 'Arafat, Rabin on 'Daring Step'

Congratulates PLO Leader

NC1009090593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0844 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text) Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today made a telephone call to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in which he congratulated 'Arafat on the daring step that the PLO took on PLO-Israeli mutual recognition.

President Mubarak said that he and the Egyptian people hope for a solution to the problems of the Palestinians that would allow them to live in dignity in their own land, and would result in a just and lasting peace.

Praises Israel's Rabin

NC1009115693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1007 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this afternoon telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and congratulated him on the daring step that Israel took by launching into mutual recognition with the PLO and reaching a declaration of principles.

President Mubarak expressed hope that Arab-Israeli peace talks will achieve progress leading to just solutions on other Arab fronts as soon as possible. A just and comprehensive peace in the region will generate a much-desired stability for all nations, Mubarak pointed out.

Musa To Attend Signing of Palestinian-Israeli Agreement

NC1009093293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—MENA has learned that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will lead the Egyptian delegation to a ceremony that will be held in the White House on Monday [13 September] for the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles (Gaza-Jericho).

Musa on PLO-Israeli Recognition, 'Positive' Talks

NC0909183393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Commenting on the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said: This is considered an important step in the peace process that began in Madrid. It is a step toward a comprehensive peace. It corrects many points, which we advocated: That the PLO is indeed the representative and spokesman of the Palestinian people; that it represents the Palestinian people's hopes and aspirations; and that it represents the Palestinian people's positions at the negotiating table. He said mutual recognition is one of the steps accompanying the declaration of principles recently agreed upon in Oslo. The issue of Gaza and Jericho, he said, is one of the annexes of the declaration. This is seen as a positive step on a long road, which implements UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the land- for-peace principle, and the Madrid formula for achieving a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli and the Arab-Israeli conflicts. He said that in light of this, he thinks the Gaza-Jericho agreement will be signed on schedule on 13 September.

He said the general atmosphere of the negotiations in Washington is positive.

U.S. Envoy: Shaykh's Deportation Considered

NC0909173793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1608 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Alexandria, 9 Sep (MENA)—U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Robert Pelletreau has praised the important role President Muhammad Husni Mubarak is playing in supporting the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO. He said the next few days will reveal the results of this great role.

The U.S. ambassador described Egyptian-U.S. relations as strong and distinguished. He said there is strong bilateral cooperation in various economic and political fields and in confronting terrorism and boosting peace in the Middle East. His remarks came during a news conference in the cultural center in Alexandria today on the occasion of closing the U.S. Consulate in the city as part of the American plan to cut costs, which includes closing 20 U.S. consulates in various countries.

On Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is in prison in the United States, the U.S. ambassador said his country will look into Egypt's request to hand over Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman to Egypt or to deport him after his trial ends in the coming months.

He said the United States opposes terrorism and does not support Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. He said the United States opposes violence and terrorism everywhere. It also opposes political change through the use of violence.

Shaykh's Biography Seized

NC0409101893 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 30 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] The State Security Intelligence Department has confiscated a book called " 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, The Earthquake That Rocked The World," by fellow AL-AHRAR journalist 'Isam Kamil. The book objectively reviews the life of Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman, the story of his joining al-Jihad Organization, the true story of the attacks against tourism, how he escaped from Egypt, and the true story of the murder of Mustafa Shalabi [an Egyptian colleague of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman killed in the United States; 'Abd-al-Rahman is suspected of being connected to his murder].

The book also includes denunciations of the murder of police officers and politicians. It reviews the role of Shaykh al-Samawi and Shaykh Kishk [Egyptian clerics] in the al-Jihad Organization and features the full text of the debate held at the end of 1987 in al-Minya between the mufti and the awqaf minister, as state representatives, and Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani and 'Ali 'Abd-al-Fattah, on behalf of the Islamic Group.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Departs Following Visit

NC1009073993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0659 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih left Cairo today following a four-day visit to Egypt.

During the visit, Dr. Abu-Salih delivered a message to President Husni Mubarak, current OAU chairman, from Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, concerning the U.S. charge that Sudan sponsors terrorism.

Dr. Abu-Salih handed a similar message to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League's secretary general, clarifying Sudan's position concerning the U.S. charges.

The Sudanese foreign minister held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa concerning the situation in the region as well as bilateral relations.

Iraqi Minister Arrives for Arab Council Meeting

JN0809201593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Sep (INA)—Iraqi Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih today arrived in Cairo to attend the meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council, expected to start tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Third Phase of 'Badr' Military Maneuver Concludes

Eastern, Western Weapons Compared

NC0809191693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—The 2d Field Army sent tanks and other armored formations beyond the lines of the 3d Field Army during a mock battle today, part of the third phase of the major "Badr" maneuver. The 2d Field Army used Eastern Bloc weapons that had undergone further development in Egypt.

The attack was carried out by armored and mobile infantry units under cover provided by modern fighter aircraft. The attacking groups were also backed by artillery, air defense, and military engineering units.

The defending side used an armored formation of equal size but armed chiefly with Western weapons. Its task was to reach and defend a vital supply line. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi created emergency situations for the two combatants. These helped show the ability of the field commanders to make on-the-spot decisions and issue prompt orders to their forces to be implemented with precision and daring.

The exercise was completed with outstanding success that demonstrated the commanders' competence and ability to control their units in circumstances similar to real-life situations. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Readiness

NC0909165393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1307 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Suez, 9 Sep (MENA)—Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi has said the large-scale military maneuver "Badr" carried out by the Armed Forces in various areas and among various formations reflects the high combat level of the Armed Forces. They are in a much better state than they were during the October War 20 years ago.

General Tantawi said the Armed Forces will present a report to President Husni Mubarak, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, in which they will affirm that they are ready and prepared to implement their duties at all times and in every direction.

After attending the closing stage of the "Badr" maneuver in a 3d Field Army sector, General Tantawi told journalists that the Armed Forces maintain their combat abilities to be ready to defend Egypt at all times.

Asked if the Armed Forces are relaxed now that Egypt is experiencing peace, the defense minister said this notion is wrong. He said the Armed Forces' responsibilities increase in times of peace.

He said the good combat preparedness of the Armed Forces is considered a message to everyone that we are ready at the highest level. This constitutes the deterrent that prevents war.

He said the Armed Forces continue their preparations and training so that they will not repeat past mistakes. We learned our lesson regarding the need for strong Armed Forces capable of implementing their major duties, he said. These duties are to defend Egypt's border at any time and from any direction.

On the value of this large-scale maneuver at this particular time, General Tantawi said the Armed Forces have their annual training on various strategic, mobilization, and tactical levels. This year for the first time we thought of combining the various levels. The Armed Forces performed them in one formation and one large maneuver.

He said the maneuver took place as the result of a strategic ideal. It was implemented on the level of armies and regions and on a lower level.

He said this gives the Armed Forces training in administering fighting activities in various directions at the same time, in addition to the economic value, which saves effort, expense, and equipment.

General Tantawi said the Egyptian Armed Forces are now stronger than they were during the October War 20 years ago, both on the level of the fighter's preparedness and equipment, and on the level of armament and the use of modern technology.

He said Egypt can acquire modern tanks and update and modernize all its weapons, command, and control.

The defense minister explained that the "Badr" maneuver takes place this year as part of the Armed Forces' celebrations of the anniversary of the glorious October War victory. The celebrations this year mark 20 years since the October War. They coincide with another special occasion that we in the Armed Forces welcome and that makes us very happy. This occasion is renewing the term in office of President Mubarak, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. This calls for a fitting celebration of the glorious October victories.

The defense minister said the maneuver included difficult training for the commanders, officers, and soldiers under extreme conditions similar to real operations; that way, they will be ready to face any possibility.

On joint training between the Egyptian Armed Forces and other countries' armies, General Tantawi said the planning has long been going on. We have held such training with developed countries, such as the United States and West European countries, he noted.

He said the training benefits both sides, since they can be introduced to the modern methods and technological equipment of the world's arsenal. The other side can also benefit from the war experience of the Egyptian Armed Forces, an experience other armies do not have.

The defense minister said we also hold joint training with Arab countries, since this is one of the major requests in implementing cooperation between the Egyptian Armed Forces and the fraternal Arab countries.

He pointed out that there are contracts to buy modern training equipment for the Armed Forces from abroad. Such equipment will be manufactured in Egyptian military factories.

Concluding, the defense minister thanked all the commanders, officers, and soldiers participating in the maneuvers, whether by planning or implementation.

Tantawi Praises Final Stage

NC0909192393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Suez, 9 Sep (MENA)—Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi today watched the final stage of the major military maneuver "Badr" conducted by the Armed Forces in different areas during the past nine days. [passage omitted]

The chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, senior Armed Forces commanders, delegations from Arab and foreign countries, and Arab and foreign military attaches attended. [passage omitted]

The defense minister praised the high standard displayed by the 3d Field Army during the exercise and stressed the importance of coordination and cooperation among the joint forces to carry out combat missions with high efficiency. [passage omitted]

The Arab and foreign delegations praised the high standard of the Armed Forces and their use of sophisticated weapons, including the gap-opening rocket [sarukh fatih al-thagharat] produced by the military industry in Egypt.

U.S. F-16 Fighter Crashes in Village

NC1009055693 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] According to security sources in Cairo, a U.S. F-16 fighter plane crashed over a village north of Cairo last night. The plane was taking part in military maneuvers. No immediate reports are available about the fate of its pilots.

The Egyptian Defense Ministry declined to comment on the incident. However, the ministry said that the fighter plane fell on Abu Suwayr Village near Ismailia.

According to eyewitness accounts, the plane was seen falling on a deserted villa and the pilot and copilot were seen bailing out from the blazing plane. Newsmen were not allowed to go to the scene and all roads leading to the area were closed.

Terrorists Said Recruiting Security, Military Men

NC0809162693 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 1 Sep 93 p 1

[Excerpts] It has been decided to impose complete secrecy on the investigations and military court hearings of six cases dealing with terrorist activity and the extremists' moves and plans. Publication of details about these cases will be banned. [passage omitted]

The decision to impose secrecy was made in view of the involvement of security and military personnel, including officers and soldiers, in these cases after the extremist groups succeeded in recruiting them.

Policeman Shot Dead Near Asyut 7 Sep

NC0709130793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Asyut, Upper Egypt, 7 Sep (MENA)—Plainclothes policeman Muhammad Isma'il Muhammad from the Abu Tij Police Department in Asyut Government was shot dead by an unidentified gunman en route to his work today. [passage omitted]

The security authorities have stepped up their efforts to find the culprit. The public prosecutor has been informed of the incident.

Public Bank Privatization 'Out of the Question'

NC0909083393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—An official source in the Egyptian Central Bank has affirmed that the privatization of public sector banks is out of the question and that privatization at present will involve only joint venture banks, in which public sector banks have shares.

In a statement to MENA, the official remarked that public banks will sell their shares in joint venture banks and that part of these shares will be sold to the banks' employees at a maximum of 10 shares per employee.

Economic Reform Agreement With World Bank Initialed

NC0909093893 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 4 Sep 93 p 1

[Excerpt] An official source has stated that Egypt and the World Bank team have initialed an agreement on the second phase of the economic reform program.

The source told AKHBAR AL-YAWM correspondent Muhammad 'Umar that the agreement allows Egypt to use EEC aid to train the needed cadres for the banking system, especially since Egypt is apt to be an international financial center. It will also be used to train stock exchange workers, especially in the cotton bourse. [passage omitted]

Newspaper Resumes Publication After Suspension

NC0809185293 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 1 Sep 93 p 7

[Text] The newspaper AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH resumed publication on Thursday [19 August] after an interruption of over three months reportedly because of the Muslim Brotherhood's control over the newspaper, which used to be issued in tabloid format. The Muslim Brotherhood's control over the newspaper covered only four issues.

In its new issue, the newspaper did not mention why it was suspended. In an article in the last page, Mahmud 'Atiyah says: "With God's help, AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH has resumed publication for its dear readers who have been attached to it since its former issues."

A large number of Muslim Brotherhood writers did not write in the first issue. However, the Muslim Brotherhood touch did not disappear completely, although the chief editor refused to publish the Muslim Brotherhood's statement on the attack on Minister Hasan al-Alfi.

Muslim Brotherhood officials said the newspaper in its new format is interested in the Muslim Brotherhood without being "Muslim Brotherhood" so that the saga of its closure will not be repeated.

Libya

Official Details Losses Resulting From Sanctions

LD0509171393 Tripoli JANA in English 1440 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Banghazi, al-Fatih [September] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Engineer Mubarak al-Shamikh, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Utilities, Tourism and Communications, asserted that the Great Jamahiriyah was badly affected in human and economic terms by the arbitrary air ban imposed by the Security Council's invalid Resolution 748.

During a press conference attended by journalists from the world's media who are covering the festivities of the Libyan Arab people marking the 24th anniversary of the great al-Fatih revolution, the secretary pointed out that the transport sector in the Great Jamahiriyah stands witness for the losses we have been suffering as we were unable to provide treatment locally for 4158 cases in addition to the death of 150 people due to the impossibility of airlifting them for treatment abroad.

He added "As a result of late supplies of medicines and medical equipment, 150 children and 45 women died. Also there has been a delay in sending the bodies of the foreigners who died naturally in the Great Jamahiriyah to their home countries." He pointed out that foreign doctors and paramedical staff who resigned from the health sector in the Great Jamahiriyah due to lack of

regular flights 700. [sentence as received] Road accidents toll soared from 1400 to 4318 as a result of cars due to lack of air transport.

He stressed that the air ban was behind the crash of the Libyan Arab airliner and the death of its 157 passengers and that a number of internal flights were cancelled the latest of which was flight 1103 from Banghazi to Tripoli on which I was travelling after one of its airliner's engines caught fire forcing us to study the possibility of stopping all internal flights.

The secretary said that the arbitrary Resolution 748 and its human losses was not confined to the Great Jamahiriyah but extended everywhere. The secretary cited the example of the International Red Cross airliners were to airlift some of the injured in a plane crash in Algeria and asked to land in the south of the Jamahiriyah but the time required to obtain permission from the international committee in charge of Resolution 748 made it impossible to help these airliners in this respect. This shows that the closure of the national air space of the Great Jamahiriyah affects all mankind and not only the inhabitants of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Also, the secretary referred to the economic effects saying that the Great Jamahiriyah lost 2200 million dollars and her exports programme lost about 234 dollars [figure as received]. The Libyan Arab Airlines lost 214 million dollars as the company was unable to carry 2 million passengers and that 80 per cent of the airliners were out of order, 7000 employees amongst them the best pilots in the world who never registered any error or accidents were unemployed in addition to the losses incurred by the Libyan Arab Airlines' offices abroad. Also the Libyan company for air cargo was unable to fulfil contracts worth 6 million dollars and that the air freight company lost 1.5 million dollars. Meanwhile, the civil aviation authority of the Great Jamahiriyah lost more than 3 million dollars from traffic through the Libyan Arab air space.

Tear and wear at the sea ports incresed as a result of providing daily services to passengers increasing the exhaustion rate of ships from 20 to 25 per cent forcing us to charter and buy ferries without any consideration of the economic revenues a process which cost 14 million dollars. The use rate private cars, buses, and lorries on land roads soared, increasing damage to public roads [words indistinct] the maintenance bill to 15 million dollars. The revenue of the general post office company went down to 8 million dollars for lack of delivery of spare parts and late deliveries of air mail.

Also, the secretary highlighted other losses in the fields of the agricultural and industrial sectors and others.

Then, the secretary answered a number of questions including one on the effects of the air ban on the great man-made river project.

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Lockerbie Bombing

LD0609120993

[Editorial Report] London ITV Television Network in English at 2000 GMT on 23 August carries the 30-minute "Scottish Reporters" program of ITV's Scottish Television service, in which Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is interviewed by correspondent James Matthews in Tripoli on the Lockerbie bombing. The date of the interview is not given.

The program opens with shots of the wreckage of the PAN AM airliner at Lockerbie, followed by the correspondent's sea journey to Tripoli, where he was made to wait five days before being allowed to meet the Libyan leader.

The program then shows the correspondent meeting al-Qadhdhafi inside his Bedouin tent.

Al-Qadhdhafi begins speaking in English: "Of course, in accordance with this evidence and what we heard and the circumstances in that time, Libya is far from this evidence of Lockerbie, and we expressed deeply our sorrow and we sympathize these victims and these families, and I believe 100-percent these people are innocent and deeply resisted these innocent also [sentence as heard]. Libya looks to restore the relationship and the friendship and cooperation with British people, with American people, and we are very, very sorry to see we sacrificed our mutual interests because of this accident. And it is for our sake also to see who is the cleaner, who did this tragic accident."

Al-Qadhdhafi continues speaking through an interpreter: "If we have sanctions—all the sanctions of the world and even of the universe—they will never make Libya submit."

The program then shows shots of the part of Tripoli bombed in 1986 by U.S. bombers, followed by comments from the father of one of the victims of the Lockerbie bombing.

Al-Qadhdhafi continues on his refusal to extradite the two Lockerbie bombing suspects: "If they wanted to go, we would not prevent them. But we could not force them to go to a country they don't want to go to."

Matthews asks: "Why not call the bluff of the West. If they do not want a trial and they are simply trying to keep Libya under the thumb, give the two men over. Let the evidence be heard, and it may be, according to what you say, the last thing that Britain and the U.S. want."

Al-Qadhdhafi replies: "We have been urging them to go, but they are very frightened because they say that these who have unjustly accused us could unjustly convict us."

The program then shows clips of the Lockerbie bombing suspects.

Al-Qadhdhafi continues on various allegations against the suspects: "These points constitute the accusations

against the accused, and, therefore, they should be investigated. We do not defend them if they committed such a crime. They should pay the price, but this should need investigation and trial, and we need it today before tomorrow."

Al-Qadhdhafi continues on his willingness for a trial for the suspects, suggesting a Scottish solution: "If the two would like to go to Scotland, we would not prevent them. But the Libyans would not differentiate between Scotland or England. If Scotland is an independent state, a member of the UN next to Britain, then we would differentiate between the two. Britain is Britain and Scotland is Scotland only then. But now Scotland is part of Britain, and we are looking forward to the day when Scotland becomes independent."

Matthews asks: "Will Libya force the two suspects to go to trial in a Scottish court?"

Al-Qadhdhafi replies: "In that case, they will go voluntarily by themselves because they would not have the same attitude of hate toward Scotland."

Matthews asks al-Qadhdhafi why he views Scotland more favorably.

Al-Qadhdhafi replies: "We look upon the Scotch people as different from the English people, and we look upon it as being colonized by the English. Because of that, they are suffering also from colonization like us—just like us."

The program then continues with footage of street scenes in Tripoli, and the site of a Libyan airliner crash.

Al-Qadhdhafi continues: "Unfortunately, we had to pay a price of a similar tragedy because one of our planes carrying the same flight number that came down because of the sanctions by the Security Council. They also prevented technicians from coming to Libya to inspect the Libyan planes, to make sure they are good for flying. There were 157 passengers on board on that flight. They all died."

The program then shows further footage of Tripoli.

Matthews asks: "Bill Clinton is settled in now in the White House. Do you feel you can do business with Bill Clinton?"

Al-Qadhdhafi replies: "Of course, we believe that the enmity between Libya and the States has come to an end after Bush and Reagan. We believe in Clinton's—our friend Clinton's—courage to help resolve this problem. And also we trust our friend Major, and those two we really like them. And we don't have any ill intentions against them. Within this friendly spirit, we could cooperate together and solve this problem, and we pray and ask God that we might succeed."

Matthews asks: "Why is John Major your friend?"

Al-Qadhdhafi replies: "First of all, he did not participate in the aggression against us. We didn't know him then. We only knew him after Thatcher left, and we found out that he is a good man. I saw him also on the bus, shaking hands with the people, and I like that kind of behavior, when you are close to the ordinary people. He is not aggressive. He does not have a colonial mentality, and his personality is completely different from that of Thatcher. Thatcher is aggressive, and because she was a women she wanted to make up for that by getting involved in aggression, but Major does not have that inferiority complex."

The program then continues with further footage of Tripoli, showing mosques and various street scenes.

Matthews then asks: "There are those in Britain and the United States who suggest you are simply delaying any trial because Libya is guilty and that the suggestions you make—the speculation of a possible trial—is simply designed to delay the inevitable and to delay the confrontation of the fact that Libya was to blame for the Lockerbie bombing."

Al-Qadhdhafi replies: "They are the ones who are procrastinating. They are the ones who are wasting time. We could have the court held as of tomorrow—the trial held tomorrow. And if you could agree about a venue for a trial, we could start tomorrow."

Matthews asks: "The logical road in terms of the UN Security Council resolutions is that sanctions will increase, possibly an oil embargo. Ultimately, there may be another military strike against Libya. Is that something you are prepared to risk on behalf of your people?"

Al-Qadhdhafi replies: "So, that is our fate. This is not the first time that the international conscience becomes dead. But arrogance and tyranny are usually short lived. These are desperate attempts to kill the people and to put an end to life. This is another desperate attempt, and we will patiently and courageously resist.

The report concludes with shots of the Lockerbie disaster and comments from the father of one of its victims.

Lockerbie Lawyer Says UK Assurances 'Inadequate'

NC0809200193 Paris AFP in English 1918 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tripoli, Sept 8 (AFP)—The Libyan lawyer representing two Libyans accused in the 1988 bombing of a U.S. airliner over Scotland on Wednesday [8 September] dismissed as inadequate British assurances that his clients would receive a fair trial.

Ibrahim Legwell told AFP that "no sufficient guarantees for a fair trial" could be given to his clients unless the trial could be held in a third country outside Britain and the United States.

The United States, Britain and France demanded on August 13 that Tripoli hand over by October 1 two Libyan citizens wanted in connection with the Lockerbie bombing, in which 270 people died.

France also wants to question four Libyans over the blowing up of a French airliner in 1989 which killed 170 people.

It was reported on the weekend that the British Foreign Office had furnished Libya detailed assurances concerning the treatment the accused would receive while awaiting trial in a Glasgow prison.

The Foreign Office declined to elaborate on the assurances, saying only that the two Libyans would receive a "fair trial" in the presence of United Nations observers.

On Tuesday, Scottish lawyer Alistair Duff said he would represent the Libyans and would fly to Libya with an associate this month to consult with the pair.

Legwell charged that his clients had "already been tried by the press" even before the opening of court proceedings against them and that what had been written about them would influence a verdict.

"We therefore fear that a judgement would not be fair," he said, adding that he would prefer that his clients be tried in "an Arab or Mediterranean country or even Switzerland."

He said that the presence of a Scottish lawyer in the defence team did not mean that the pair would be handed over to the Scottish judicial authorities.

Legwell also said that he had advised his clients against surrendering to the United States or Britain.

On Monday Legwell said he was "not impressed" when he visited Scotland last month to investigate conditions under which his clients might be tried.

Exiled Prime Minister 'Negotiating' Return

PM0809154693 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 6-12 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "From Our Own Sources"]

[Text] Muhamud al-Maghribi, Libya's first prime minister following the revolution and who is presently a refugee in Britain, is negotiating with al-Qadhdhafi so that he can return and reassume his position as premier again. Al-Maghribi is demanding large-scale reforms in the existing political structure in Libya, including a provisional constitution that endorses pluralism and an economic open-door policy, replacing the "Green Book."

Arab Envoys Summoned To Explain 'North Pole' Talks

LD0809192893 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Sep (JANA)—The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity had a meeting today with the Arab Maghreb Union ambassadors and also with the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, Iraq and Palestine.

The brother secretary asked these ambassadors to explain the change from the framework of the multilateral Madrid talks to bilateral secret talks in Norway in the North Pole [as received], why the Arabs were kept out of these talks after they had been used as merely a framework at the Madrid conference, and whether the Arabs had any knowledge of what has been happening in the North Pole, or were they taken by surprise and among the last to know?

Al-Qadhdhafi, Ben Ali Discuss Arab, Other Issues

LD0909165893 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Sep (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the Tunisian Republic have held a telephone conversation. They exchanged views on a number of Arab and international issues of concern to the two brotherly countries.

GPC Secretary Meets With Russian Ambassador

LD0609195393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1840 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 6 Sep (JANA)—The secretary of the General People's Congress [GPC] met with Aleksey Podtserov, ambassador of the Russian Republic to the Great Jamahiriyah, this evening [6 September]. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, aspects of cooperation between the GPC Secretariat and the Russian Congress of People's Deputies and ways of consolidating this cooperation and the ties of friendship between the two countries were discussed. The Russian ambassador referred to the efforts his country is exerting to find a peaceful solution to the crisis between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Western countries. He also affirmed the importance of consolidating links of cooperation between the Libyan Arab and Russian peoples, praising the deep ties of friendship which connect the two countries.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Podtserov

LD0909162293 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Sep (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received Aleksey Podtserov, ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Mobutu Envoy Delivers Message to al-Qadhdhafi

LD0609214193 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Diot Fa, chairman of the foreign relations committee in the

Zairean parliament and personal envoy of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko. The envoy delivered to the brother leader of the revolution a written message from the Zairean president in connection with bilateral relations. It affirms Zaire's solidarity and position alongside the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting the coercive measures imposed on it as a result of the void UN Resolution 748.

Sudan

Al-Bashir: U.S., Europeans Targeting Islam

EA0909173293 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Sep (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al- Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, has stated that the interference in Sudan on the part of a number of American and European official quarters is designed to damage Islam and the interests of the Muslims, saying that all the international operations are openly aimed against the Muslims.

He said in an interview for AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH [words indistinct] that the American plan is to isolate all Muslim states and regions and to divert them away from the Islamic path [words indistinct] and the general Islamic [word indistinct] as had happened in the cases of Libya, Bosnia, and Palestine.

He added that Sudan was targeted by hostile plans. In the event of any aggression, we shall defend ourselves and the honor of our homeland. He said the Sudanese people would help the government defend Sudan's unity, stability and honor, saying that the proof of that [words indistinct] the training camps.

Foreign Minister: U.S. Policy 'Biased, Racist, Unfair'

JN0909152293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih has characterized U.S. policy toward the Arab nation as biased, racist, and unfair.

In an exclusive statement to a correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency in Cairo, Dr. Abu-Salih said the United States is launching a hostile campaign against Iraq and Sudan for political purposes because of the their independent political decisionmaking in support of a pan-Arab course.

He added that the language of force, threat, and intimidation against Iraq and Sudan is of no use, harms international relations, and does not promote sorely-needed stability and security in the region.

Dr. Abu-Salih, currently on a visit to Cairo, wondered why the Western states are insisting on maintaining the unfair embargo against the Iraqi people, despite the fact that it is an unjust embargo and deplored by world public opinion. He also wondered why Sudan is on the terrorist list at a time when many countries violate international resolutions without anyone taking them to task.

The Sudanese foreign minister denied the existence of terrorist camps in his country, saying the camps that exist in Sudan are for the Popular Defense Army which supports the Sudanese Armed Forces.

He accused Washington of being biased and of helping John Garang-led rebels in the south, pointing out that this is deemed unacceptable interference in Sudan's domestic affairs.

Al-Bashir Praises Relations With Egypt

EA0909220093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Sep (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers, has declared that agreement has been reached with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the need to develop, strengthen, and purify relations between the two countries on all matters.

In an interview for the London paper THE INDEPENDENT published by AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH here today [9 September], he said that his meeting with Husni Mubarak had been [words indistinct] all aspects and had provided an opportunity to exchange views and information on the course of relations between Egypt and Sudan.

He went on to say: We agreed to form a committee to be chaired by the foreign minister. The two recently met in Cairo and will meet again. The correct procedure for us is to resolve all the issues by way of dialogue—calmly and in the spirit of brotherhood binding our two countries together.

He said President Mubarak was one of the strongest supporters of strengthening and entrenching relations between the two countries as was proved by his past and present records. He said the problem had arisen due to undercover efforts by hostile quarters bent on sabotaging and deranging those relations, since bringing those relations closer together did not serve the interests of those quarters.

Al-Bashir said Egypt's security was Sudan's security and Egypt's strength was Sudan's strength. Those accusing Sudan of involvement in incidences of violence in Egypt were lying and trying to cause a conflict between the two countries. He went on to say that Sudan was not harboring or training any opponents of the Egyptian regime nor is it harboring opponents of any other country.

Referring to relations between Sudan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he said they were currently stable, saying he had met the Servant of the Two Holy Places [King Fahd] three times and had found him conversant with Sudan's issues and concerns.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir denied that the policies and stances adopted by Sudan could permit it to become party to undermining stability in Algeria. He said the internal affairs of the Algerians were their own concern; neither we nor anyone else have the right to interfere in them. He said he had made clear to the Algerian brothers that the information they had received from other quarters, to the effect that Sudan was interfering in their affairs, was lies and fabrications.

He said he hoped that these clouds darkening the relations between the two countries would disperse and that the relations would not be affected in any way by the lies and allegations being put out by the enemies of Arab and Islamic solidarity.

Al-Bashir, the chairman of the RCC and of the Council of Ministers, lauded the Tunisian president, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, for his noble Arab stance adopted towards many of the issues facing the entire Arab nation and referred to the spirit of cooperation and brotherhood dominating the ministers and officials of fraternal Tunisia.

On the issue of restoring relations between Tunisia and Sudan to their former state, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said constant efforts were being made to bring this about, and he hoped the relations would be good, stable, and flourishing. He stressed that Sudan would not interfere in the Tunisians' internal affairs: We shall not work against their interests in any manner whatsoever.

Al-Bashir stated that it was the Arab [al-arabiyyah] policy which was seeking to ruin relations between the Arab states and they [as received] are aiming to shatter Sudan's security and trying to create conflict between Sudan and its Arab brothers.

On relations between Sudan and Morocco, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said our relations with our brothers in Morocco are excellent. Some time ago our foreign minister paid a consultative visit. He stressed that Sudan supported King Hassan II's efforts to unite the Arab states, wishing him success in this context. He said that, broadly speaking, relations between the two countries were firm and deeply rooted, noting that it had been the ulema and missionaries [du'ah] of Morocco who had entrenched Islam and Arab culture in our lands. He added that the Sudanese were descended from Moroccans and were participating with the Moroccans in serving their country at various levels.

On Sudanese-Yemeni relations, Lt. Gen. 'Umar said they were strong and wide- ranging. These relations are not just political and economic, but popular relations, he said. He said the two peoples were in close touch with each other; they cooperated, visited each other, intermarried, and mingled in mutual friendship, while the politicians saw to it that these relations were constantly being reinforced. Al-Bashir noted that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is a dear, loyal, and generous brother of the Sudanese and is a wise and noble Arab leader. He said there was a time when we had feared for Yemen because certain hostile circles were working against it—quarters displeased by Yemeni unity were starting to undermine and sabotage it. As the elections drew near, those circles hoped they would fail, but the leaders and people of Yemen foiled the plot. He stressed Sudan's faith in Yemeni unity.

Al-Bashir: Preparations for Peace Talks To Begin

EA0909174093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, has declared that consultations will begin immediately in preparation for holding a new round of negotiations between the delegations of the government and the rebel movement and for the laying down of a specific framework for the negotiations.

He said in press statements that Sudan accepted the quadripartite initiative of the presidents of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, and Uganda regarding methods to solved the southern problem.

His Excellency explained that there will be a quadripartite committee from the presidents of these states under the chairmanship of the Kenyan president, Daniel Arap Moi when there will be consultation between the mediating sides and the two sides of the negotiations, in accordance with the framework required for their success. [sentence as heard]

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Receives Norway's Holst

LD0909225593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign minister Habib Ben Yahya had talks this evening with Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, who was accompanied by an important delegation.

Following the meeting, the Norwegian foreign minister expressed satisfaction over the important role played by Tunisia and Norway in the success of the Middle East process. He said that this role will remain just as important in the future, in view of the fact that the two countries will have to act together to support the international effort for the financing of the development process in Gaza and Jericho. He pointed to the solid coordination between the two countries in this field.

The Norwegian foreign minister indicated that Tunisia and Norway would continue their support for the moderate positions, with a view to bringing about the realization of future Palestinian-Israeli agreements.

Ben Ali Confers Credentials on New Ambassadors

LD0909181593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Excerpt] During a ceremony held at Carthage Palace this afternoon, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali conferred credentials on a number of recently-appointed Tunisian ambassadors. Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya attended the ceremony.

The ambassadors are: Mohamed Saad, the Tunisian ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco; Mohamed Jenifane, the Tunisian ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt; Slaheddine Abdallah, the Tunisian permanent representative to the United Nations in New York; Mohamed Borhane Ben Achour, the Tunisian ambassador to the Republic of Iraq; Raouf Said, the Tunisian ambassador to Norway; Mohamed Hedi Drissi, the Tunisian ambassador to the state of Qatar; Abdelkrim Moussa, the Tunisian ambassador to the UAE; Aziz Naifar, the Tunisian ambassador to the Federal Republic of Brazil; Fethi Tounsi, the Tunisian ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman; Slaheddine Jammali, the Tunisian ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic; Lamine Benzarti, the Tunisian ambassador to Ukraine; Ridha Tnanni, the Tunisian ambassador to Uzbekistan. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Accord Signed To Supply Cote d'Ivoire With Oil

LD0909192893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1355 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 9 Sep (KUNA)—Kuwait and the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire signed an agreement here today on the basis of which the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation [KPC] will export about 3,750,000 metric tonnes of oil to the west African republic. In an exclusive statement to KUNA, Husayn Majid al-Shamma', the executive assistant of the delegate member for marketing at the KPC, said that Kuwait will supply the National Corporation for the Management of Petroleum Operations in the Cote d'Ivoire with about 1,250,000 metric tonnes of Kuwaiti crude oil annually over the next three years, starting from the end of this year. He pointed out that oil tankers will transport an estimated 25,000 barrels of oil per day to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire. [passage omitted]

Information Minister on Media Role in Gulf Affairs

PM0809151693 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 5-11 Sep 93 pp 28-29

[Interview with Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah by Ghunaym al-Mutayri in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Mutayri] What is your assessment of the Kuwaiti media in the past and at present?

[Al-Sabah] In the past our media's interest did not go beyond the boundaries of their state, Kuwait. Local newspapers, television, and radio focused on entertaining citizens. We did not pay much interest to external information. We felt this shortcoming during the invasion of Kuwait when average Arabs could not hear the appeals for help transmitted by Kuwaiti radio. Which is why the Information Ministry has set up information centers in Kuwaiti embassies abroad, from East Asian countries like India through to Arab states like Tunisia, Morocco, and Syria, and in Riyadh and London. The aim of these centers is to convey Kuwait's view of any issue raised. We are currently considering establishing an international newspaper to be published in several Arab and European states. [passage omitted]

[Al-Mutayri] What is your assessment of the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] march?

[Al-Sabah] The GCC has not achieved the Gulf people's aspirations. We in Kuwaiti have since the early eighties and during the establishment of the GCC sought to call it the "union of the Gulf states." But political conditions led to its current name. However, after the Kuwaiti catastrophe, arrangements should be revised and this council should be turned into a union, and borders between Gulf states opened. The leaders of the GCC states should fulfill the Gulf people's will: one flag, one embassy, and one currency.

There are economic, defense, political, and foreign [kharijiyah] agreements agreed among the GCC states, and there is now an opportunity to achieve this wish.

[Al-Mutayri] What is your opinion of Sultan Qabus' plan to set up a unified Gulf army?

[Al-Sabah] It is an excellent plan, and Sultan Qabus is a first-class military man known for his farsightedness in security arrangements in the Gulf region. He personally supervised this study. I hope that the idea of setting up a unified Gulf army will be implemented and that we will surmount all differences in order to establish it.

[Al-Mutayri] Do you not believe that the joint Arab defense pact is sufficient to protect the Gulf states?

[Al-Sabah] The joint Arab defense pact has failed due to the lack of trust among Arab states. However, I am optimistic about the Damascus declaration plan, which will restore trust and safeguard the Arab states' sovereignty and their peoples' dignity.

[Al-Mutayri] What is your opinion of recent statements by the Iraqi media on the Kuwaiti security belt?

[Al-Sabah] We do not want to sink to the level of Iraqi accusations, which have proved untrue. The security belt which Kuwait has begun to implement is on its northern border with Iraq and on its own territory and under its own sovereignty. We do not need to consult the Iraqis to secure our international borders. [passage omitted]

[Al-Mutayri] Do you see the National Assembly as an obstacle to the achievement of your informational aspirations?

[Al-Sabah] Members of the National Assembly understand the media's role and its strategic importance. It was not the armies alone which liberated Kuwait. The media had the lion's share in implementing the liberation operation. Thus, the legislative and executive authorities in Kuwait believe that external and internal information must be bolstered to keep pace with developments in the region and the world, to contribute to presenting Kuwait's issues on the international scene, and to accentuate the results of the Iraqi invasion, especially the prisoners issue.

[Al-Mutayri] How would you assess Gulf-Iranian relations?

[Al-Sabah] Gulf states are always seeking to establish an excellent relationship with their neighbor, Iran, based on respect for sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs. After the Kuwait crisis Iran is committed to good steps, which we hope will develop.

Oman

German President Pays Visit, Received By Sultan

JN1009063393 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0510 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Salalah, 9 Sep (WAKH)—German President Richard von Weizsaecker arrived in Salalah tonight [9 September] on a two-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. He was received upon arrival by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and senior Omani officials.

United Arab Emirates

Cancellation of Minister's Visit to Iran Announced

JN1009101693 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] It has been decided to cancel the visit His Highness Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs, intended to make to Iran next week, because the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has become convinced that the Iranian side has no desire to render this visit a success. This announcement came in a statement to WAM by an official source at the UAE Foreign Ministry. The official source added that the visit has been canceled for the following two major reasons:

1. Iran has refused to issue a statement noting that this visit is aimed at discussing the dispute between the UAE and Iran on the Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra Islands.

2. The statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Tuesday [7 September], saying that these islands belong to Iran.

Concluding his statement, the source said: Despite the UAE's interest in holding a direct dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the difference between the two countries over the three islands, the visit has become useless, will not serve the expected purposes, and its results have become predetermined because these two signs clearly show that the Iranian side has no desire to reciprocate the concern or the statement issued by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council of the Arabian Gulf states issued on Monday.

Yemen

Parliament Speaker Views Constitutional Reforms

PM0909135093 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 6-12 Sep 93 pp 32-33

[Interview with House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar by 'Abdallah al-Mu'ayyad in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Mu'ayyad] What disagreements still exist among the coalition parties over constitutional reforms, now that the House of Representatives has agreed in principle to the plan?

[Al-Ahmar] To begin with I would like to clarify that what has so far been referred to the House of Representatives is the letter explaining the background and reasons for requesting the amendment of certain articles. As for the amendments themselves or their texts in the amended version, they have not yet been referred to the House of Representatives.

[Al-Mu'ayyad] But the House of Representatives has agreed in principle to the amendments?

[Al-Ahmar] Yes, it has agreed in principle to the amendments with regard to the articles contained in the explanatory letter.

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Is there still disagreement over the amendments?

[Al-Ahmar] There is no disagreement among the coalition parties, neither over the amended version nor the letter containing them. The House of Representatives is to discuss and decide on them two months after the initial agreement, in accordance with the Constitution. [passage omitted]

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Do you believe that the 12-day period (4-15 October) is sufficient to make the amendments and hold the presidential elections?

[Al-Ahmar] We do not wish to determine beforehand the conditions and opportunities available to the House of Representatives with regard to discussing and making the amendments. However, this does not prevent us from saying that, in my view, the period is insufficient.

[Al-Mu'ayyad] If it proves insufficient, what measures will the House of Representatives take to avoid a constitutional vacuum with regard to the presidency?

[Al-Ahmar] Obviously if it proves impossible to make the amendments, the Constitution will be referred to in order to apply its stipulations, that is, to elect a new presidential council. [passage omitted]

[Al-Mu'ayyad] What is your party's position on the "Opposition National Bloc" formed on 19 August by five opposition parties?

[Al-Ahmar] Our position on opposition is principled and clear. It has been so since the establishment of the "Yemeni Reform Grouping," before and after the parliamentary elections on 27 April, and before and after we joined the coalition. The Reform Grouping's position is

that there can be no democracy without opposition. And that just as pluralism under democracy enables parties toget to power, it also gives other parties the opportunity to exercise opposition and criticism, expose mistakes, and benefit more from democracy.

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Do you expect this bloc to form a strong opposition?

[Al-Ahmar] We hope so. We hope it will be able to achieve this objective, but I cannot affirm anything at present. [passage omitted]

Opposition Alleges Arms Sales, Trade With Iran

NC0909172493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources in London with Iranian connections have said that the regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn has sold a large quantity of arms and ammunition, including chemical weapons and missiles, to Iran because it needs foreign currency. The sources said the weapons were hidden in secret locations near the border between the two countries and out of sight of the UN inspection teams, which have searched for the past two years for mass destruction weapons to destroy. The sources think that about a quarter of the regime's stored weapons were moved to Iran and that some of them were also sent to Sudan via Iran.

Informed Iraqi sources said the secret trade between the regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn and Iran has recently increased and includes military equipment and weapons. Iran has also become a transit point for Iraqi oil exported to central Asian republics in violation of the UN boycott resolutions. The sources—some Arab and some Kurdish—said the highway between Iraq and Iran through the Iraqi town of al-Mundhiriyah and the Iranian town of Qasr Shirin in the central sector is witnessing heavy traffic not seen since the Iranian revolution in 1976. Scores of trucks and tankers travel this road daily in both directions, carrying goods worth several million dollars. The sources said Iran supplies Iraq with foodstuffs, electrical goods, and car tires, and in return Iraq exports chemical fertilizers, dates, and cement to Iran. Smugglers are also active smuggling goods in demand in both countries.

Peshmergas Repulse Regime Attack 7 Sep

NC0909180593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] The fascist regime in Baghdad last Tuesday [7 September] attacked the villages in the (Shuwan) region on three axes, using large military forces and a group of agents. The valiant peshmergas confronted the attackers, forcing them to retreat defeated and disgraced. The attack left no losses.

Saddam Meets With Scientific Society Members

JN0709194493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has met with the president and members of the Iraqi Scientific Society for the second consecutive day.

His excellency made an important speech in which he discussed valuable aspects related to culture and science and their link to the concepts of originality and modernism, as well as the principles [words indistinct] which go deep in our glorious history.

The leader president emphasized the need to preserve the scientific heritage, which is the product of a great civilization built by the glorious Iraqis thousands of years ago.

His excellency, may God protect him, praised the role played by the Iraqi Scientific Society in preserving heritage in the fields of culture and science and the major work it does to entrench Arab culture and thought.

His excellency beseeched God almighty to bring success to the efforts by all to build a developed society, in which our people enjoy happiness and prosperity. [passage omitted]

Delegation Departs for Canberra IPU Meeting

JN0809104193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0854 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (INA)—A National Assembly delegation, led by Deputy Speaker Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri, left Baghdad for Australia today to participate in the 90th conference of the Interparliamentary Union [IPU] to be held in Canberra from 12 to 18 September.

In a statement to INA, the head of the delegation said that the delegation will propose another topic be added to the agenda dealing with the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq. The proposal will be supported by facts that show there is no legal justification for continuing this blockade as Iraq has carried out all the articles of Security Council Resolution 687.

He also noted that the conference will discuss two basic issues: The first issue deals with respecting international law and supporting humanitarian efforts in armed disputes, and the second issue deals with the health and welfare of the elderly. He said the Iraqi delegation has prepared two working papers highlighting Iraq's view on these issues. The two papers deal with the measures imposed on Iraq that contravene humanitarian aspects provided for by international law, especially those depriving the elderly of the means for a prosperous life, and the poor health situation caused by the unjust blockade.

The delegation includes Dr. Muhammad Muzaffar al-Adhami, member of the Arab and International Relations Committee at the National Assembly.

Rabin Signs Letter of Mutual Recognition With PLO

Official Announcement

TA0909184593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Statement by 'Oded Ben-'Ami, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's media adviser, announcing the mutual recognition agreement with the PLO, in Jerusalem on 9 September—recorded]

[Text] The Ministerial Committee of Defense empowered the prime minister and minister of defense to sign the exchange of documents with the chairman of the PLO. The documents will be signed here in Jerusalem after we will get the announcement that they have been signed by the chairman of the PLO in Tunis. The foreign minister of Norway will be here in Jerusalem tonight from Tunis, and the documents will be brought to the approval of the Israeli Cabinet on Sunday [12 September].

Mutual Recognition Letters Detailed

TA0909184193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Excerpts] After 24 hours of secret negotiations in Paris, the wording of three letters was completed at 1355 [1155 GMT] this afternoon, enabling Yitzhaq Rabin to brief the Inner Cabinet. One letter is from Yasir 'Arafat to Yitzhaq Rabin, the second letter is from Rabin to 'Arafat, and the third is from 'Arafat to the mediator, Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst. [passage omitted]

We have obtained the three letters, which you now see displayed on the screen. The letters are still unsigned and in their English version. They are currently being translated into Hebrew. Undoubtedly, this is an historic turning point.

The most interesting letter is the one by Yasir 'Arafat. The letter begins with the words: Mr. Prime Minister, and continues: The signing of the declaration of principles heralds a new era in the history of the Middle East. I firmly confirm that the PLO thus recognizes the right of the State of Israel to exist in security and peace. The PLO is committed to the peace process and to a peaceful solution of the conflict, and every issue will now be solved in negotiations. This is a new era of peaceful coexistence, without violence or any other move that will endanger peace and stability. The PLO denounces any use of terror, and will enforce this on its member groups. The PLO confirms that the clauses in the Palestinian Covenant negating Israel's right to exist or what is written in this letter are no longer valid. The Palestine National Council will soon officially approve the necessary amendments in the covenant.

Sincerely, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

As for the Yitzhaq Rabin's letter, it reads: In response to your letter from today [9 September], I hereby confirm to you that the Israeli Government has decided to recognize the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and to enter negotiations with it in the framework of the peace process in the Middle East.

Signed: Yitzhaq Rabin, Israel's Prime Minister.

The third letter is addressed to the indefatigable Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst. In it, 'Arafat confirms that the PLO calls on the entire Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to participate in the steps leading to a normalization of their life, to oppose violence and terror, to contribute to peace and stability, and to cooperate to reconstruct their lives and to develop the economy. [passage omitted]

Signing Ceremony Detailed

TA1009075993

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el, Tel Aviv IDF Radio, and Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 0710 GMT on 10 September begin broadcasting from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, where Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is slated to initial his letter to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat recognizing the PLO.

IDF Radio political correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports that in addition to Prime Minister Rabin, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and Norwegian Foreign Affairs Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, senior official from the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry are attending the signing ceremony. These include Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur; Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin; Shim'on Sheves, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office; Eytan Haber, head of Rabin's bureau; Rabin's Military Secretary Dani Yatom; Yo'el Zinger, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser; Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir; and Shlomo Gur, the political adviser of Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. Also present are 'Oded Ben-'Ami, the defense minister's media adviser, and local and international media people.

At 0713 Jerusalem Television's Yoram Ronen reports that Prime Minister Rabin has entered the hall. Following an exchange of greetings between Rabin and the Norwegian foreign minister, Rabin peruses 'Arafat's letter and then, at 0715, puts his signature, Y. Rabin, and the date on his letter to 'Arafat.

Immediately afterward, Rabin delivers a brief speech in English, emphasizing the importance of the mutual recognition and agreement reached with the Palestinians.

At 0719, Norwegian Foreign Affairs Minister Holst delivers a speech in English, welcoming the "new era" opened in the Middle East.

At 0722, Shim'on Peres takes the floor and delivers a short speech in English, also stressing the importance of the occasion.

At 0725, following Peres' speech, Rabin makes a statement in Hebrew, basically rJiterating his earlier English statement but with a slant directed at his Hebrew-speaking audience.

Rabin's speech ends at 0729 GMT, following which Peres asks the Norwegians, including the foreign affairs minister, his wife, and his assistant, to approach the small table where he and Rabin are sitting, and they all shake hands.

The signing ceremony ends at 0731 GMT.

Rabin on Significance of Recognition

TA1009091193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0725 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the occasion of the signing ceremony of his letter on recognition of the PLO, at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Honorable audience: The Norwegian foreign minister has handed me a letter from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in which, among other things, he makes commitments that none of the PLO people had dared to undertake until now: recognition of Israel's right to exist in peace and security; a commitment to resolve the conflict between the Palestinians and us through negotiations and by peaceful means; a commitment to refrain from terror and violence by its organization and to punish those who deviate from this commitment; a commitment that those clauses in the Palestinian Covenant that negate the very existence of the State of Israel, its peace and security, are no longer operational or valid as far as he is concerned. Naturally, this still requires the formal approval of the Palestine National Council. I replied with a short letter in which, on the basis of this commitment and, of course, its actual implementation in the area in everything related to the prevention of terror and violence, as well as everything related to the implementation of the agreement of principles that will be signed in Washington on Monday [13 September], including all the attendant protocols and addenda that will form the basis for the change, for the entry into the interim arrangement, the transitional period, as matters are defined in the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference. [sentence as heard]

This is a big step forward on a long road. There will be obstacles and difficulties on this road, but it gives hope that this agreement—which is the first between a Palestinian body and the State of Israel since the foundation of Israel as a sovereign state—will indeed lead to the establishment of the interim arrangement, to finding peaceful coexistence according to the principles laid down in the agreement of principles. I view this as a momentous time, with many chances and with quite a few risks, too. Of course, we will need to fulfill our part. We will do so on the assumption that the other party will also fulfill all its commitments. We are embarking on a road of hope which will feature difficulties and difficult moments; however, the entire road of Zionism, the road of this state, has been accompanied by struggles and achievements, by both difficulties and successes.

I would again like to thank the Norwegian foreign minister and, naturally, Shim'on Peres, with whom I cooperated on this issue. I am aware of the heavy responsibility I am undertaking as Israel's prime minister in performing this unprecedented act that changes the concepts, conceptions, and convictions of the past. It gives a great hope for a change. Thank you.

Peres on 'New Reality'

TA1009082593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0722 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Statement in English by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the signing ceremony of Prime Minister Rabin's letter to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat recognizing the PLO, at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on—live]

[Text] Prime Minister: I would like to take this opportunity to thank, first of all, the Norwegian people and Norway—a wonderful land that has embraced the peace negotiations with such an open heart and hospitality. I would like to thank you, Johan, for your tireless and brilliant work, and, with your permission, I would like to have a look at Mariana, your wife, and at Muna and Kari Larsen. These were the four persons who worked tirelessly day and night. We are very grateful for what you have done, and our thanks come from the depth of our hearts for all of you, and you particularly.

As the prime minister said, we understand the seriousness of the moment for our own people. For them, it is a new experiment. We know that this is not just a political accord. This is really something that relates to every family in our country, to the mother, to the father, to the children—what the future will really be like. And we understand the seriousness of it.

I want to say also that we wish from the depth of our hearts a different future for the Palestinian people. We don't hate the people. What we are seriously striving for is to get rid of a poisonous past and, to use a Biblical wish, to return to a land of milk and honey. We can do this, and we have to live it so, accordingly.

I think that all of us will work tirelessly to make this agreement—which until this moment is a piece of paper—into a new reality. For me, it was a privilege to work with the prime minister. I think that both of us felt deeply that we are serving a great cause and a great occasion, and we must meet the size and the seriousness of it.

I would like also to express thanks from the depth of my heart to the Israeli teams. I won't mention names, because I have to return back home, and if I forget somebody I shall be in trouble. [laughs] We shall do it in an organized way. But there are people who worked very, very hard, and we thank them as well.

Again, we are departing to a new future. This day was difficult as well, so we are not going to face a situation without difficulties. But the difference is that we are going to face a new day with many chances and hopes for us, for our neighbors, and for the whole of the Middle East. Thank you very much.

Norway's Holst Thanks Both Sides

TA1009080693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0719 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Statement in English by Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst at the signing ceremony of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's letter to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat recognizing the PLO, at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Mr. Prime Minister: Let me just very briefly state how pleased we have been and how humble I feel having had a chance to play a small role in this very important endeavor to bring peace to the embattled area of the Middle East. It has been a very long journey, and some very dedicated people have worked very, very hard to produce the documents that settle the immediate matters that needed to be settled. We have had the privilege of working together with some fantastic Israelis and equally with some unique Palestinians in finding a solution to what increasingly came to be seen as common challenges, common problems. And when I see the kind of spirit, the kind of cooperation that developed between the two groups of people who so ably and so tenaciously represented their different sides, I feel that the future is bright indeed, There is hope, and I think one has, as the prime minister said, entered a new era. We have gone beyond the stage where decisions could only be made by consensus. You have to break the consensus in order to make the necessary decisions and in order to provide a basis from which you can build a new consensus, and it seems to me that the importance of the documents that have now been initialed and signed is that we have created a new basis for building a common future in the Middle East.

One has put history behind us, and we are looking towards the future, and the declaration of principles that have been agreed between the two sides, it seems to me, points towards a future that you will have to build together and by common endeavor rather than in common conflict. So my only task is to thank you very much for everything that you have done in accomplishing these very, very important results and for giving us a chance to serve in that very, very important endeavor.

'Arafat Thanks MAPAM for Support of Palestinian Cause

TA1009120693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has sent a congratulatory telegram to the convention of MAPAM's [United Workers Party] Young Guard, signing it: President of the State of Palestine. Our correspondent Hadar Vismonsky reports:

The letter, printed on official stationery of the State of Palestine and signed by 'Arafat, who defined himself as the president of the State of Palestine, reached MAPAM's Young Guard yesterday. We find ourselves at the beginning of a new era in history, 'Arafat writes, an era in which we will struggle together for the achievement of a just and viable peace for our children and people. We look to the future with hope and with confidence that coexistence and cooperation will prevail here, far from any suppression, occupation, and iron-fist regimes. We should leave behind the bitter experiences we shared in the past and courageously and wisely overcome the obstacles still facing us, 'Arafat writes. He continued: I thank you, MAPAM members, for the actions and policy you adopted in behalf of the just goals of our people, the Palestinian people, especially our right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. The letter is signed: Sincerely, Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and head of the PLO Executive Committee.

This letter, as stated, was sent yesterday, prior to the official announcement on recognizing Israel, on the occasion of the opening of the MAPAM Young Guard's convention in Giv'at Haviva today. If 'Arafat had sent the letter today, he might have signed it differently.

Ben-Eli'ezer on Recognition, 13 Sep Accord Signing

TA0909170893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1558 GMT 9 Sep 93

[News conference with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer at the end of the Inner Cabinet session approving mutual recognition with the PLO; outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Qol Yisra'el's political correspondent Shlomo Raz] Is there mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Yes, to put it in simple Hebrew: A process will now begin whereby Israel recognizes the PLO and the PLO recognizes Israel. This agreement actually concludes a lengthy and tiresome process. It seems to me that Israel attained all the goals it sought to achieve. It is a document signed by Yasir 'Arafat and addressed to the prime minister, in which he commits himself to the following points:

- Recognizing Israel's right to exist in peace and security.
- Sharply denouncing terror and all forms of violence.
- Calling on the Palestinian people in the territories to abstain from any forms of violence and terror.
- Totally eradicating those clauses in the Palestinian Covenant referring to the annihilation of Israel.
- Establishing an apparatus that will solve all future problems through peaceful means.

[Political correspondent Natan Gutman] Is the next stage the signing of the agreement in Washington by the foreign minister?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I do not exactly know who will sign it. In its session on Sunday [12 September] the cabinet will empower the man who will sign the agreement on its behalf. You are right, the agreement will be finally signed next Monday. As I said, the Norwegian foreign minister is on his way to Tunis and will proceed from there to Israel. It seems to me this the end of one chapter and the beginning of a new one.

[Gutman] Sir, how can you sign such a dramatic agreement when the coalition basis of the government has been considerably reduced? SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] is with one and a half feet out.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] First of all, the government still enjoys a majority. Despite all that has been said, SHAS has not yet left the government. We have heard about the resignation of the two deputy ministers. This is a lengthy process. I hope you realize that leaving the government is not tantamount to bolting the coalition. These are two separate matters. In other words, SHAS may leave the government but need not quit the coalition.

[Gutman] Sir, is the PLO canceling and eradicating the clauses in the Palestinian Covenant calling for the annihilation of the State of Israel in practice?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] That is in fact the document that was sent to us. This document actually is a commitment by Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO to erase those clauses in the Palestinian Covenant referring to the elimination of Israel.

Police Minister Shahal Comments on Security Issues

TA0909180193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1602 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal at the end of the Inner Cabinet session approving mutual recognition with the PLO, by political correspondent Netan'el Semrik outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem and anchormen Uri Paz and Ge'ula Even in the studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Semrik] Other than endorsing the document, has any formal signing taken place?

[Shahal] There has not yet been any formal process. The prime minister was empowered to sign the agreement. The Norwegian foreign minister is scheduled to arrive in Israel with the document signed by the other side. Then, the prime minister will either initial or fully sign it. The Inner Cabinet has given him the power to do that. In its meeting on Sunday [12 September], the cabinet plenum will discuss and formally endorse the entire package.

[Paz] We are not totally clear on one point. We know that the PLO wanted to include in the agreement a phrase to the effect that the PLO is the exclusive representative of the Palestinian people, while Israel sought to erase it. This attempt on our part to emphasize that the Palestinians have other representatives looks rather bizarre. After all, we argue that the PLO is the authoritative representative, and we pursued this line in the negotiations. Why then did we insist on not including the words exclusive representative?

[Shahal] As a man who saw those documents after they were worded, I can tell you that the wording has not changed. Israel insisted on a very fundamental and basic position. It said: This is a package, take it or leave it [preceding five words in English]. After the team that conducted the talks agreed on the wording, we said we would not change anything in the document. That is why the document says that the PLO is the representative of the Palestinian people. It does not say the sole representative [preceding three words in English], but the representative [preceding two words in English]. It believe this suits reality better. As far as I know, those were not the clauses in dispute.

[Even] Will the document on mutual recognition include a call by the PLO and 'Arafat on the Palestinians in the territories to renounce terror? How do you think this will be effected in practice? Will we see positive results soon?

[Shahal] The name of the game is cooperation, so that if there is an act of terror we can deal with it effectively. However, in addition to such a call, the Palestinians abstain from terror and acts of violence. Please do not forget that. We are not talking just about terror, but about any form of violence. The Palestinians will have to deal with this issue to maintain their commitment. They will do that with their police troops or by any other means. They will do that by seeking the cooperation of their own people. They must prevent terror and all forms of violence by every possible means.

[Even] But it will take time to establish the Palestinian police force in the territories. What will happen now after the PLO calls for renouncing terror? Will we stop seeing firebombs thrown at Army patrols and at dance floors in hotels [alluding to incident on 6 September in Jerusalem]? What will happen in practice until a Palestinian police force is able to see to such matters?

[Shahal] First of all, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is not going anywhere. As long as there is no change, the IDF will remain in place and will not budge even later. What will happen immediately after the agreement is

signed, a call will be issued to all the inhabitants of the territories in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to abstain from engaging in acts of terror and any form of violence toward Israelis. They will be called to enter a new era of economic and other cooperation. This call will start an echo. Let us not forget that PLO supporters in the territories were and remain the majority. I do not know exactly the size of this majority. They are definitely not the only ones calling the shots, but they are the vast majority. This means that the people themselves and the climate in the street will be called upon to make sure that there is no terror or violence. [passage omitted]

Peres, Aloni Comment on Mutual Recognition

TA0909162893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1556 GMT 9 Sep 93

[News conference with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni at the end of the Ministerial Committeee on National Security Affairs session approving mutual recognition with the PLO; outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Are there no outstanding problems concerning terror and the intifadah in the territories?

[Peres] The issues Israel insisted upon were attained. The PLO is today an organization of a totally different character with a totally different covenant.

[Correspondent] Will both parts of the agreement be signed in Washington next Monday?

[Peres] Some of it will be signed tonight.

[Correspondent] Do you foresee 'Arafat coming to Israel for a visit soon?

[Peres] I am not such a prophet.

[Political correspondent Natan Gutman] Minister Shulamit Aloni, can we today clearly and unequivocally announce that Israel recognizes the PLO as an interlocutor to the peace talks?

[Aloni] Yes, I definitely think so. Now that the PLO amended the Palestinian Covenant, has denounced terror and all forms of violence, and wants to promote the peace through negotiations, I think this is the greatest conceivable achievement. Even the Shemtov-Yariv formula did not contain a demand to change the Palestinian Covenant, but only required mutual recognition. Here the achievement is far greater, and I think there is reason to rejoice.

[Gutman] When is the signing of the document about mutual recognition expected?

[Aloni] I think that the final signing will be this week here, and in Washington on Monday.

[Gutman] Who will be the Israeli minister that will sign it?

[Aloni] He will be a high level cabinet minister, either the foreign minister or the prime minister.

Peres Responds to Criticism of Pact

TA1009065093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Me'ir Einstein and Shlomo Raz—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Mr. Peres, we have heard the reactions of the opponents of the agreement with the PLO. They emphasize their lack of faith in Yasir 'Arafat. Do you believe 'Arafat?

[Peres] I believe in the nation, in the need, and in the situation. This thing is not based on one person. It is not an issue of believing one person. All the opponents are people who are using psychology while being blind to everything else. For that matter, I doubt whether they are so proficient in psychology either. The matter does not hinge on the character of one person. There is a new situation in the Middle East in which nobody has any choice. Some people are living in the past. Let them continue to do so and enjoy themselves.

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, even the people who supported the agreement have emphasized the qualms and apprehensions regarding the dangers inherent in this agreement.

[Peres] It is fashionable to do so.

[Einstein] What about your own feelings regarding these dangers?

[Peres] Let me be entirely frank with you. Is our situation so good and perfect today? Do we not have any problems today? Should we not have any qualms and apprehensions about the present situation? We are moving from one situation to a new one, which also includes quite a few problems. There is one big difference, however: The new situation also harbors great opportunities. The dangers, on the other hand, already exist today. The opportunities are the new addition.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, Likud Knesset Member Beni Begin this morning said that these agreements are nothing more than invalid words, because the Palestine National Council [PNC] has not approved them.

[Peres] Look, what do you want Begin to say? Do you expect him to agree? Tell me, when has the Likud been right about anything? Were they right when they opposed the partition plan and the establishment of the state, when they waved Resolution 242 in our faces, when they stormed the Knesset building when the issue of German reparations was raised, saying this was the end of the country? There is nothing to get excited about here. In my opinion, the Likud would have risen to the occasion had it acted as we did when we were in the opposition and supported the peace process. The peace process cannot be a perfect thing because we are not negotiating with ourselves here. We are negotiating with

an opposing party that has its own difficulties and problems. The Likud is not offering any alternatives, however, and is not drawing any lessons from its own experiences.

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, what is the rush? Why not wait until the PNC abrogates the problematic clauses in the Covenant, seeing that 'Arafat's letter stipulates that the PNC will abrogate these clauses and that they will not be officially abrogated until it does so.

[Peres] This is not what it says. It says that they are no longer valid [preceding five words in English].

[Einstein] This is why the PLO has undertaken to refer the issue of the necessary changes in the Covenant to the PNC for formal approval.

[Peres] Excuse me, neither of us are lawyers, and we should not read unwarranted meanings into words. It is true they are supposed to bring this thing for the PNC's approval. It says, however, that they are inoperative [preceding word in English]. This means that they are no longer valid [preceding five words in English]. These words are as explicit as possible. I do not see any reason to wait until the PNC convenes and receives a two-thirds majority. The very fact that the top PLO leadership publicly said it is dissociating itself from the Covenant was deemed by people an unattainable dream only six months ago. You know, every time we attain something, people try to downplay it.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, if it were up to you, what else would you have tried to achieve in the documents that will be signed in Jerusalem shortly?

[Peres] Look, this is an inappropriate question. Had I tried to achieve more, I might have lost my partner. Our real problem is not only what is attainable but also what can be implemented. We must be very careful not to push the other side into a corner in which it will collapse. We are not very far from that situation. We are interested in having a partner. We have here a triangle of three parties: Jordan, the Palestinians, and Israel. We must bring at least two of these parties together, and preferably all three, otherwise one party will beat up on the other. We tried to pursue the Jordanian angle, but due to causes unrelated to us or, at least, not to the Labor Party, this thing was foiled. This was a fatal mistake by the Likud. Let them look back for once and have the courage to admit what happened with the London agreement. We could have accomplished this six years ago, thereby avoiding casualties and suffering and securing a great political turnaround. Who will pay the price for this? This is a question of real historical importance. Mr. Begin should not teach us history. After they throttled the Jordanian option, we had to bring the two other parties together. We tried to work with the Palestinian residents of the territories, but it transpired that they are completely subordinated to PLO-Tunis. The Likud, however, ignored this fact. It totally disregarded this situation, asking us to close our eyes and ears and say that this situation does not exist. The Likud itself, however, agreed to sit down with 'Abd-al-Shafi; it agreed that the delegation be appointed by the PLO, and this logically entailed its subordination to the PLO. What do they want now?

The problems we face are not theoretical or hypothetical. Allow me to remind you that we faced the extremely grave precedent of the Sinai agreement, which called for the disbandment of settlements. Do you remember how the Likud used cages to evacuate the settlers?

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, are you fulfilling a dream?

[Peres] I am fulfilling a role. I never finish dreaming my dreams. One of the nice things in a democracy is that one is entitled to dream. Even if one is called a daydreamer, one is still entitled to dream. I think that this is only the beginning of a dream, because my real dream is to create a new, different, modern Middle East in which people can receive higher education and in which there are civilized relations, a flourishing economy, and a real desire for peace. We were born human beings, and we can return to the prehistoric age of Adam and Eve in which we were all human beings. This is my big dream.

[Einstein] What about the Nobel Peace Prize?

[Peres] Look, let me rest from all the irrelevant and trivial issues. The issue that totally engrosses me now is how to maintain the momentum. This is what I am interested in. It is about time that other people realized that this is what interests me.

[Einstein] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Beilin Discusses Right-Wing Opposition to Accord

LD1009122893 London BBC Television Network in English 0700 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilen, by Michael Macmillan, in Jerusalem; from the "Breakfast News" program—live]

[Text] [Macmillan] Here in Jerusalem I'm joined by Yossi Beilen, the Israeli deputy foreign minister. Now, Mr. Beilen, can I ask you first of all: Mr. Netanyahu said this was the first step toward a Palestinian state. Isn't that inevitable?

[Beilen] I don't think so. I believe that the Likud always says that whatever is happening is a kind of a first step for Palestinian state. It's the same for the autonomy. It's the same for the current situation. Many people are saying that the current situation is conducive to a Palestinian state. A Palestinian state will be established only if there is an Israeli government which is ready to have a Palestinian state as a neighbor. Until this very moment there is no such a government. I don't think that in the future we will see such a government. I, for one, believe that eventually this solution will be a kind of confederated one, a confederation between Jordan and those

parts of the West Bank and Gaza from which we will withdraw five years from now.

[Macmillan] Are you confident that you've got the support of the Israeli public? We've seen huge right-wing demonstrations outside the prime minister's office, and that demonstration goes on this morning?

[Beilen] Yes, but this is a minority. I can't say that it is a small minority, but it is a minority. According to all the public opinion polls, there is a vast majority for this peace treaty, or this interim agreement, and if you see people in the streets, they are really happy, they understand that a revolutionary thing happened in Israel, and they are enthusiastic about it.

[Macmillan] But the right wing is calling for elections over this. If you are so confident about the amount of support that you have, why not go to the country?

[Beilen] Well, for one, I believe that if we go today for elections there would be a very significant victory for the Labor Party, but one of the reasons why the right asked for elections is not because it wants to win them, but it believes that eventually elections, especially in Israel—unlike in Britain where it can happen in 21 days or a month—it takes here about half a year, which will delay the whole process. This is the last thing that we know, that we would like to see. We got a mandate from the people, we promised them to go for peace, to pay the price for peace. It is the first government which did not oppose, officially, any kind of negotiations with the Palestinians; we promised the people to lift the ban on meetings with the PLO before the elections, and there is no reason in the world why should we go today for elections. We should go for peace, for the negotiations with the Palestinians in order to have all the details about the agreement on Jericho and Gaza, and go forward to interim solution and permanent solution.

[Macmillan] Yes, but you talk about interim solutions and permanent solutions. Surely the inevitable conclusion of these negotiations, which started in Madrid and are continuing today, is that there will have to be some sort of independent Palestinian state at the end of the day, it's unavoidable, is it not?

[Beilen] I do not think that it is something like unavoidable. It will not happen by itself—it is only if we agree to have such a thing.

[Macmillan] But it can still be negotiated, it is up for negotiation, is it not?

[Beilen] Of course, I mean the whole question of the permanent solution is negotiable, and I do not think...

[Macmillan, interrupting] So an independent Palestinian state is still negotiable?

[Beilen] The Palestinians are entitled to raise whatever solution they would like; we will be entitled to raise whatever solution we would believe in. Since the Palestinians, the Jordanians, the Americans, and the Israeli Labor Party supported and have supported the idea of the confederation—which I believe is very logic to speak about, because we are speaking here about a very small area which cannot be, I think, a viable state—since this is the common denominator, among all of us, I foresee a possibility for a confederation in the coming five years.

[Macmillan] Mr. Beilen, thank you very much indeed.

Peres, Likud Opposition Address Knesset Session 9 Sep

TA0909164893

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 0910 GMT on carries live from the Knesset the extraordinary Knesset session convened during the summer recess to debate Likud faction chairman Moshe Qatzav's motion opposing the declaration of principles with the Palestinians and Israeli-PLO mutual recognition. Qatzav castigates Labor for keeping such "vital" documents secret and not permitting the Knesset members [MK's] to study them. He charges that "more than 50 percent of Israelis are shocked and concerned" with developments. Qatzav accuses Labor of breaking the national consensus and charges that "this is the gravest act since the establishment of the state in 1948." He charges Labor with "lying to and cheating" the people when saying "a Palestinian state will not be set up and Jerusalem will not be put on the agenda." He alleges that Labor has "aided in establishing a Palestinian state through the government decision of 10 days ago." He claims that "the issue now on the agenda is whether the Knesset will vote in favor of a Palestinian state," which will endanger the "existence of the Jewish state," since after taking over "Nabulus, Jericho, and Janin, the PLO will say its targets are Beersheba, Ashqelon, Yafo, Lod, Ramla, Haifa, 'Akko." Qatzav warns that "if, God forbid, Yasir 'Arafat returns to Judaea and Samaria, as you promised and committed yourselves, the terrorist organizations will compete among themselves as to which is the most extreme in committing terrorist acts against Israel," which "not only will not bring about peace but might lead to war between us and the Arab states." Qatzav calls the agreements "a historic mistake" for the Jewish people and says it is not up to 120 MK's to decide their fate. He demands new elections to enable the entire nation to make the fateful decision.

At 0935 GMT, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres takes the podium to respond to Qatzav. Peres' speech, which lasts almost an hour, is constantly interrupted by heckling from the right-wing opposition parties. Peres repeats the main points of his speech to the Labor Knesset faction held just before the Knesset plenum convened. The foreign minister terms the Likud a "rejectionist front," which instead of seeing the historical opportunity "constantly gets caught up in hysteria." He denies Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu's charge that hundreds of thousands of Palestinians will now be returning to the territories. Peres reads from the agreements that "a standing committee will be set up to decide by agreement

on the principles for the return of people who left the West Bank. So if we do not agree they will not return." Denying Likud charges that under the accord, Labor is permitting foreign intervention, Peres says that "there has to be agreement" on the issues presented for any arbitration.

Expressing the hope that "the entire process of approval in writing on all the issues will be completed today," Peres insists that "nothing will be kept secret or hidden. We did not even agree to the trick the Likud agreed to under Camp David, to say something in English and something else in Hebrew." He maintains that under the declaration of principles there "will not be any mapping of territories, but of powers." The autonomy will not have power over "Jerusalem, Jewish settlements, and IDF security sites along the roads. The IDF has full responsibility for the security of the settlements and the defense of the Israelis." Hitting back at Netanyahu's catcalls about the dangers posed by the accords, Peres retorts that unlike the Likud, Labor is not uprooting Jewish settlements.

"No more war, no more bloodshed, no more terror," Peres vows, recalling Menahem Begin's famous remarks at the signing of the Camp David accords. "We will aid the Palestinians as neighbors because we want good neighborly relations." The foreign minister praises "the Rabin government for having the courage to make a historic decision on the de Gaulle model," referring to France's decision to pull out of Algeria. "We will bring about a new, modern Middle East," Peres promises.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, who takes the podium at 1023 GMT to make "a personal statement," accuses the government of lacking the courage to admit that the IDF will not be able to defend the Jewish settlers in the areas to be handed over to the PLO and charges it with "abandoning" the settlers. Netanyahu claims that despite Labor denials under the accords, Jerusalem will be "politically divided, which will lead to its physical redivision." "The land goes to 'Arafat, security goes to 'Arafat, East Jerusalem goes to 'Arafat, that is what you are doing." Netanyahu calls 'Arafat "a liar, I do not believe a word he says," and asks how Labor can "entrust our security to that man." Netanyahu is constantly interjected by Meretz MK's. Netanyahu accuses Labor of "cheating" the public in the elections claiming that by comparing the agreement to de Gaulle's decision to hand over Algeria to the FLN, Peres is divulging Labor's real intention "to hand over the territory, the security, the heart of Eretz Yisra'el, and half of Jerusalem to the PLO. You did not get a mandate from the people to do that. Go back to the voters and let the people decide," Netanyahu demands.

Shim'on Peres returns to the podium at 1036 GMT to respond to each of Netanyahu's accusations. Peres opens by saying that Netanyahu has shown "he does not have a clue what he is talking about," and calls his remarks "a sound bite for U.S. television."

Peres reads out in English Article 4 of the agreement: "Jurisdiction of the council will cover West Bank and Gaza territory, not the territory," several times reiterating the fact that the accord does not refer to all the territory. On security, Peres says "we are responsible for Israel's external security, we are responsible for each Israeli in the territories," and adds: "Bibi Netanyahu should be ashamed for saying that we are handing over security to 'Arafat. Do you not know the IDF, is the IDF not responsible for security?"

Referring to the de Gaulle model, Peres retorts that where it does apply is the Gaza Strip, which "we never wanted to become part of Israel.

Opposition Parties 'React With Rage' to Accord

TA0909185793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Opposition parties have reacted with rage to the agreement on mutual recognition. Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu said this is a black day for the State of Israel and a happy day for its enemies. Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan says Israel is recognizing a terrorist organization whose goal is the destruction of the Jewish state. The National Religious Party says it is a cursed agreement. All the party's Knesset members [MK's] left today for the Gaza Strip and will spend the Sabbath in Jewish settlements in the Qatif Bloc. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 9 September adds that "several dozens right-wing demonstrators set alight four tires on Wolfson Street outside the government offices in Jerusalem and hurled empty bottles, but there were no casualties. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that a police force which rushed to the site removed the tires and the road was reopened to traffic. Hundreds of right-wingers continue to demonstrate near the Prime Minister's Office."]

Netanyahu on PLO Intentions

LD1009104893 London BBC Television Network in English 0700 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Interview with Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the Israeli Likud Party, by correspondent Michael Macmillan in Jerusalem; from the "Breakfast News" program—live]

[Text] [Macmillan] As the minutes tick away to this historic accord with the PLO, I'm joined by Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of the Likud Party. Mr. Netanyahu, is this a sell-out to terrorists, as you've put it?

[Netanyahu] Well, I've put it in different terms. I've said that I think this endangers the security of Israel. There's a starry-eyed exuberance, peace in our time, peace now, we are about to make an historic juncture. The enemies of Israel have reconciled themselves to Israel's existence and Israel is accommodating them and so on. There's one problem with this, that the PLO and its internal

council says the exact opposite. It says what we want to do is achieve the dissolution of Israel by two stages.

First, we have to get a state in the West Bank, and then when Israel is reduced to 10 miles—10 miles, then we can push to the sea. Now, the government knows very well that this plan is leading to such a state, the whole world knows it, they're denying it, and I assume they will deny it on this program too. And last Thursday [2 September] in Tunis, 'Arafat said to his opponents criticizing him making this move, he said, all we are doing is implementing the phased plan for Israel's destruction. We are implementing the phased plan we adopted years ago. Now the opportunity has come because we have a government that actually believes us and is willing to give us the [word indistinct].

[Macmillan] But the PLO has renounced violence.

[Netanyahu] Sure.

[Macmillan] Dialogue has to begin somewhere, hasn't it?

[Netanyahu] The PLO has renounced violence many times; it renounced it in 1988 and proceeded to have a wave of...

[Macmillan, interrupting] But they have never put it down in a document, that's what they've done now.

[Netanyahu] They did, they signed a document with the United States...

[Macmillan, interrupting] They have never signed a document with Israel?

[Netanyahu] No, because now Israel is willing to believe them. The United States, after it believed them, then revoked the agreement because the PLO in fact practiced terrorism. But I think the question is this, most people, all people in their right minds want peace, they want a secure peace, they want a peace that Israel can defend themselves with.

What has happened is that the PLO has understood this desire for peace, and to survive, an organization that was about to collapse has received a new lease on life, is able to implant itself on the suburbs of Tel Aviv, because the Israeli Government is willing to believe Yasir 'Arafat. I would ask if anyone in Britain, anyone, would talk to an organization committed to the destruction of Britain and it said, alright you know what, we won't destroy Britain, what we want is Scotland, not Ireland, but Scotland, a piece of Wales and a suburb of London, five minutes from London. Would anybody in Britain say well I'm going to risk the security of England on such a promise?

[Macmillan] I think they might if there was a statement, an agreement renouncing violence, but that's another matter. The fact is that peace with Palestinians has to begin somewhere, this government has dedicated itself to a peace accord and it is claiming that today is a historic moment.

[Netanyahu] Well, it is undoubtedly a historic juncture, and a historic juncture is that the PLO is in the process, because of the government's policies, in the process now of achieving its long-standing goal, achieve a West Bank state, and a suburb of Tel Aviv. If I believed that such a process, that this policy would lead to peace, I assure you that my reaction would be different. But I think that it's going to lead to the opposite of peace, I think that it's going to lead to increased tension, to terrorism, and ultimately to war. And I know that this is not a comfortable position. I know that to say when the lawns are being manicured, and the cameras are being prepared, and the documents are being ready to sign for a historic breakthrough for peace, I know in this century that anybody who said watch out, it's not where it's going to lead, there are other intentions here, the other side has a different agenda altogether. I know that any time this was said, whether in the peace accords in Munich, whether in the peace accords in Vietnam, when anybody raised a question mark against a false peace, he was accused of obstructing peace, but the reason we oppose this peace, this peace accord, is because it's leading to increased tension and war, because it is leading to the opposite of peace.

[Macmillan] What will you do it you are elected prime minister, what will you do with this accord?

[Netanyahu] What we are going to do is give expression to the opposition by many in the public here, who think that this endangers Israel, and what I would do as prime minister is to do anything responsible within the rule of law to stop and nullify the dangers that emanate from this agreement with the PLO to Israel's security.

[Macmillan] But between now and then how will you wreck this deal?

[Netanyahu] With all the legal and legitimate means available to an opposition. I don't want to wreck this deal, I want to safeguard the security of Israel; I want to give a decent chance for something real, for a real peace, and not for something that puts the PLO on top—not only of Israel, but on top of a population, an Arab population that never had the right to vote, that many of them oppose the PLO, many of them would like to see a different arrangement altogether, they don't have an option. We are opposing a terror organization on the Arabs, and we are opposing a security risk on Israel.

[Macmillan] Do you predict violence with the Israel right wing over this?

[Netanyahu] Well, as far as we are concerned, we are going to do everything in our power to stop any violence, to make sure that there is no violence.

[Macmillan] Is it a possibility?

[Netanyahu] I think from our end, of course it's a possibility and these are the repeated calls that I've made and my colleagues have made to stop it. But I think there is something else here that should be taken into

account—Mr. Peres yesterday said, we are like de Gaulle. De Gaulle got out of Algeria, of course he neglected to say that Algeria was across the Mediterranean, and not right next to downtown Paris, but he also neglected to say something very important, he neglected to say that de Gaulle went back to the people. He gave the people the right to choose.

I think the way to avoid civil strife, the way to avoid a chasm in Israeli people on something as ambivalent as this, when some part of the population believes, I think wrongly, that this will lead to peace and the other side as I do, believe that this is a prescription for future war. What is a responsible government to do in such a case? It is to bring it to the people and to say look, choose. Choose between a peace based on security as we believe and a peace based on the promises of Yasir 'Arafat. Let the people decide.

[Macmillan] Thank you, Mr. Netanyahu.

Shamir: Government Has Surrendered

TA0909213393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that by recognizing the PLO Israel surrendered to its most dangerous enemy. Mr. Shamir was speaking with our correspondent Meron Tzur during the festivities marking the 10th anniversary of the settlement of Alfey Menashe. He said that this was a worrisome and dangerous agreement and that if he had been the prime minister, he would not have reached such an agreement.

Tzomet MK, Terror Victims Appeal Accord

TA0909152093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Gonen Segev of Tzomet has appealed to the High Court of Justice to prevent the prime minister and the government from signing the agreement with the Palestinians next Monday [13 September] as long as it has not been approved by the Knesset. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that MK Segev is also opposed to mentioning Jerusalem in the agreement because this is Israeli territory.

It should be pointed out that another appeal against signing the agreement between the government and the PLO had earlier been filed by the Association of Victims of Terror.

Peres Discusses EC's Role in Middle East

BR0909125493 Brussels LA LIBRE BELGIQUE in French 9 Sep 93 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Renee-Anne Gutter in Jerusalem on 8 Sep: "Peres Tells LA LIBRE BELGIQUE That He Wants Peace in the Region: Agreement With PLO Is Only the Beginning"]

[Text] By concluding an agreement with the PLO on the start of Palestinian autonomy, Israel is seeking, above all, to establish peace throughout the region, with this agreement marking the beginning of this process. This was the main idea that emerged during the interview—exclusively for Belgium—granted Wednesday [8 September] to a few international newspapers, LA LIBRE BELGIQUE among them, by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in which he sketched out future prospects extending beyond the present agreement. The agreement is sealed, he also confirmed. And mutual recognition between its signatories is no more than a question of words. The proposals of the European Commission are a help, but Israel expects more. Regarding the question of a Palestinian state, Shim'on Peres sees this taking the form of a confederation with Jordan and, possibly, Israel.

[Gutter] It seems to be taking a long time to secure mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, and this is threatening to delay the signature of the agreement on autonomy. Could everything still be called into question?

[Peres] The agreement on autonomy, including Gaza-Jericho First, is ready. What we are currently negotiating is the language which will enable us to recognize the PLO. The two documents are independent of each other. Admittedly, the Palestinians and we ourselves would prefer to see them concluded together, but I am not worried about this.

EC Proposals

[Gutter] This weekend the European Commission will submit a five-year plan to the Council of Ministers providing for ECU500 million in aid for the Middle East. Is this enough?

[Peres] Yes, as initial aid for the Palestinians. However, I am counting on the Europeans doing more to help build a new Middle East. We have suggested awarding investment guarantees to those European companies which would like to invest in the construction of the necessary industrial plants and infrastructure in the Middle East, and this suggestion was accepted in principle.

[Gutter] Can you promise the Europeans that the whole business is worth it, that the agreement will be viable?

[Peres] Why make such a promise to the Europeans or anyone else? We only have to promise it to ourselves. We are not doing this to please anybody. We are doing it to bring peace, because that is what both the Palestinians and Israelis need.

There is no substitute for peace. We want to succeed. However, a political agreement that lacks economic foundations is threatened with failure.

With Jordan

[Gutter] What about the possibility of a common market involving Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians?

[Peres] This idea is floating around more than ever, and I believe that it is essential. We must learn from European experience and adapt to local conditions. If we are to construct a new Middle Eastern economy, we must first rid ourselves of negative expenditure (on arms, boycotts, secret services). Next, we must avert dangers like desertification and irrigate the Middle East, making it green so that we can cultivate food for our children. Then we must develop our industries—in my opinion the most promising being tourism, which can create hundreds of thousands of jobs without demanding excessive investments. Then again, tourism is a political industry, for it requires a calm atmosphere and creates local interests. Not to mention the construction of infrastructure, where European companies can create new markets, reabsorbing their own unemployment.

[Gutter] Many Israelis fear for their safety. How can you reassure them?

[Peres] History numbers many successes and failures. After all, was there not bloodshed in Europe for generations? My response is that we cannot negotiate with the shadows of yesterday—which no longer exist. Our negotiations must take account of the new situation and new possibilities. The agreement places great emphasis on the security aspect insofar as Israelis will be protected against any danger on their country's external borders as well as against internal violence throughout the five years of its application.

Next Steps

[Gutter] When the declaration of mutual recognition and the agreement have been signed, what will be the next steps?

[Peres] First, we might well be witnessing the birth of two things when pens are put to paper—which is not a bad thing in itself—for Jordan appears ready to conclude a framework agreement with Israel on the same day. Next, we will be dealing with our other two neighbors: Syria and Lebanon. If Syria continues to remain positive, but only in terms of the atmosphere of the talks and refuses to get back down to specifics, then we will have no political agreement. However, even if we reach an agreement with Syria and Lebanon, there will still remain several problems in the future which are of a regional nature, concerning matters of security and the economy. So we must secure an agreement which is of both political and military significance while being regional and national in nature. The way I see it, the current agreement is a start in this respect. People are often worried because they do not like leaving behind a situation that is familiar to them. Generally speaking, people prefer remembering rather than thinking. So we must negotiate psychologically.

[Gutter] Could the present negotiations ultimately lead to a Palestinian state of the kind desired by the Palestinians?

[Peres] If they want to lay claim to one, they will do so. I will not prevent them from laying claim to one. However, the agreement deals with what has been agreed, not what everyone is laying claim to. We are dealing with a Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli triangle. In order to secure peace between us, there must be a settlement between each of the parties, otherwise they will eat up each other—as has happened in Yugoslavia. My solution would be to have a Jordanian-Palestinian or even a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli confederation. For if we consider not the land, which is of secondary importance, but the people, who are of primary importance, then most Jordanians are of Palestinian origin, and the Palestinians in the territories have Jordanian passports. It all makes sense. They will remain under the same roof. We must decide how to live together before our differences emerge. However, this will all be covered in future negotiations, which will focus on permanent solutions.

Angel and Demon

[Gutter] For a long time the PLO has been a demon in the eyes of many Israelis. How can you suddenly explain to them that you want to build a future together with such a demon?

[Peres] People cannot be classified as either demons or angels; they are always merely human beings. What counts is not a person's nature but their policy. If the PLO changes its policy it will become a different organization. There are many such precedents in the world. Personally, I have never tried to depict anyone as either a demon or an angel. We are all human beings.

[Gutter] There is much talk of a historic moment. What is your personal feeling today?

[Peres] I believe this to be the beginning of the story. And my freedom to continue making a contribution to this process comes before any other consideration. I am not reveling in past glories, but am more attracted to the potential of the future.

Deputy Defense Minister Gur To Handle Settlers' Status

TA0909151593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] The prime minister has appointed Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur as coordinator of all the issues pertaining to the status of the Jewish settlers in the areas of the autonomy.

'Senior' IDF Source on Implications of Autonomy Plan

TA0909143693 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Sep 93 p 4

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers who will be responsible for security arrangements during the autonomy period met with Yo'el Zinger, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, who was one of the formulator's of the document of understanding. Zinger briefed the

officers on details of the agreement. This was confirmed yesterday by a senior military source. Zinger met with the IDF working teams, headed by Major General Amnon Shahaq, the deputy chief of staff.

According to the source, the staff teams in charge of preparing the IDF's plans for the security arrangements will finish their task even before the discussions with the Palestinians on the security arrangements begin. The IDF will present its recommendations in installments, and the Israeli Government will only be briefed on the general picture prior to the actual start of the discussions.

The senior military source said: "If the agreement is signed it will only take effect one month later, and the negotiations on the implementation of the agreement will only begin afterwards. These negotiations will last three months. Therefore, there is still over a month to consolidate security details. The IDF's working teams have begun, and will gather momentum next week."

The senior military source rejected claims that the IDF opposed the agreement of understandings about to be signed. The source asserted that the agreement, as laid out in the document of understandings, could force the Israeli negotiators to face a tough challenge when it came to implementing the security arrangements. The source added that the agreement could lead to a difficult and complicated security situation, which the IDF and other security forces would have to confront.

"The IDF will have to deal with three things," the source said.

"First, the issue of external security, which can be handled relatively easily. There will be buffer zones, a redeployment of army forces, and locations where early warning stations or surface to air missile batteries will be placed.

"Second, defending Israeli settlements and installations inside the autonomous areas or near them. This is also relatively simple as far as military solutions go, it will mainly be a question of materiel and forces.

"Third and most complex, is the defending and securing Israeli citizens as they move inside the autonomy zones," the senior source said, concluding that "the IDF would do everything possible to implement the framework agreement, which was formulated by an elected government."

The senior military source assessed, the prime minister was correct not to involve the IDF in formulating the framework agreement. "If I honestly ask myself, I think it is good that the IDF was not involved in the sensitive political deliberations. It is not right for military officials to participate in the decisionmaking process regarding such a sensitive issue, he said."

As for the PLO's ability to control the territories, the senior military source assessed, the IDF should not have to get involved in the activities of the Palestinian police force while it attempts to enforce the agreement on the population, saying: "I believe that IDF intervention in internal disputes would not help the PLO but rather weaken it."

Large-Scale IDF Exercise Ends in South

TA0909141593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] A large-scale mobile commands exercise ended in the south of Israel today. This IDF [Israel Defense Forces] exercise lasted for one week and was the largest of its type in recent years. Participating in the exercise were: the Central and Southern Commands, field commands and regular and reserves divisions, Air Force squadrons, and Navy flotillas. The exercise was headed by Major General 'Amiram Levin.

Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, and Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur visited the forces in the area, received briefings, and closely followed the exercise. At the end of the exercise the chief of staff said this activity was to build up power and prepare the forces for war.

PLO, Israel Acknowledge Each Others' Existence

JN1009085893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Israel officially recognized the PLO today. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin signed a document recognizing the PLO a few fours after Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat signed a similar document recognizing Israel.

The document was signed in an official ceremony that was attended by Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, who arrived in Israel early this morning from Tunis, carrying the PLO document acknowledging Israel signed by the Palestinian president.

The Israeli prime minister said, after signing the document, that the recognition is a commitment by the PLO to make changes and to pave the road for reconciliation and peace between the Palestinians and Israel.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres described the signing of the agreement as a historic moment, adding that the two sides—the Palestinians and Israelis—should forget the past and embark on a new era of bilateral relations.

Minister Denies Contacts With Israel on Air Route

JN1009081693 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 11-17 Sep 93 p 2

[Excerpts] Jordan has denied holding contacts with Israel on launching a direct air route between the two countries.

AFP cites Israeli Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar as saying that Israel urges the launching of a direct air route with Jordan within the framework of a peace agreement in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

In Amman, the Jordanian transport minister denied any knowledge of these statements. Minister al-Tarawinah declined to comment on this issue. He told SHIHAN: I know nothing about this issue.

Eight Parties Endorse PLO-Israel Accord

JN0909114393 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Sep 93 p 25

[Text] Amman—The higher committee for party coordination has announced its support for the Gaza-Jericho First accord, considering it a first positive step toward liberation.

The committee demanded that the PLO maintain its constants in terms of liberating the territories, foremost of which is Jerusalem, and establishing the Palestinian state on its liberated soil.

The committee said that the struggle to liberate Palestine is an Arab and Islamic responsibility championed by the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their legitimate and sole representative. The committee noted that it is the nation's duty to fully support the Palestinian people's decisionmaking.

The higher committee stressed that in any agreement reached, it is important to include Jerusalem's return to Arab sovereignty. It said that excluding Arab Jerusalem, the cradle of the heavenly faiths, from the texts of the agreement cancels any possibility of achieving peace.

The higher committee added that the liberation of any part of the occupied Palestinian territories as a stage for full liberation is a positive step that should receive the Arab nation's support based on international legitimacy Resolutions 242 and 338. It noted that the Gaza-Jericho First accord should not encroach on the nature of the distinguished relation between the Jordanians and Palestinians and on their rights to reach any form of unity chosen by the two peoples.

The statement was signed by the following eight parties:
1. Jordanian National Alliance Party [JNAP].
2. Popular Unity Party-the Unionists.
3. Progress and Justice Party [PJP].
4. Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party [JDPP].
5. Al-Yaqazah [Awakening] Party.
6. Al-Hurriyah [Freedom] Party.
7. Democratic Arab Unionist Party (Wa'd).
8. Jordanian Arab Masses Party.

Columnist Calls for Regulating Palestinian Influx

JN0909144993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Sep 93 p 4

["Opinion" column by Ahmad Jamil Shakir: "Expeditious Measures are Needed To Regulate Movement Across the Bridges"]

[Text] We should not view the Israeli occupation authorities measures facilitating the movement of citizens from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as humanitarian measures to enable them to rest and relax.

We should not view the Israeli measure reducing the age of the Palestinian citizen who can visit Amman from 35 to 25, and the reduction of the permit fees from 120 dinars to 30 dinars, as opportunities to ease tension among citizens there. We should not view allowing them to relax among their relatives and loved ones on the east bank of the Jordan River as a gratuitous act done for the love of God and in the interest of the Palestinian individual, who has suffered from the repression of an occupation that resulted in hundreds being martyred and thousands being wounded.

Divine revelation did not suddenly come to the occupation authorities, nor did they start having humanitarian feelings for no reason at all. The Jews, throughout history, have been known to plan their policies for years to come.

From this premise, we view very seriously the current influx of thousands of young people from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip across the bridges into Jordan. Since we are well aware of the Israeli objectives, we know this is an operation to empty the land of young people, particularly from the Gaza and Jericho areas.

We do not view the numbers of those coming from there with satisfaction. Why has the number of daily arrivals from the occupied territories reached 5,000, most of whom are young people, while the number of those leaving for the West Bank does not exceed 20 percent of the arrivals?

If the number of those arriving continues as it is for one month, then 125,000 people will come to Jordan. It would be illogical to go after each one of them to tell them: Go back to your land and deprive the occupation of the chance to wrest you from your land.

From this national premise, we hope the interior ministry will adopt expeditious measures to check this influx. Had it not been for the measures the government had taken in the past, the Arab territories would have been emptied of their inhabitants.

We should not be ashamed to take speedy and urgent measures to foil the Israeli designs, before the problem exacerbates and we start appealing to the world to allow the arrivals to go back to their land after they fail to go back on time.

Once again, we call on the government and the interior ministry to take and announce measures known to all, so the occupation authorities will not succeed in sowing seeds of suspicion in the hearts of our brothers west of the river.

Al-Majali Discusses Consequences of Iraq Embargo

JN0909174493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office this afternoon a U.S. delegation led by Ambassador David Newton. The delegation is visiting Jordan to study difficulties facing Jordan's economy as a result of the imposition of economic sanctions on Iraq in accordance with Resolution 661, and the searches of ships bound for the Port of al-'Aqabah and their negative impact on Jordanian trade.

The prime minister explained to the U.S. delegation all the difficulties and suffering facing Jordanian citizens, manufacturers, merchants, and shippers. He indicated Jordanian officials are experiencing difficulties as a result of pressures from citizens, who are pressing for permits from the [Sanctions] Committee to export their products to Iraq. The prime minister spoke of the losses the national economy is sustaining as a result of the enforcement of this resolution, saying they amount to almost $300 million per year, not to mention the immense burdens and challenges facing our national economy.

Dr. al-Majali asked the U.S. delegation to work to alleviate the impact of this resolution on Jordan. Jordan, he contended, should not be a victim of this resolution. Along with other nations, it is complying with it. He informed the delegation of the immense cost and losses the Jordanian economy has sustained as a result of the Gulf war and the enforcement of sanctions on Iraq, explaining that most of the industries launched in Jordan were directed toward the Iraqi market.

For his part, the head of the U.S. delegation promised to study all the difficulties facing Jordan as a result of the implementation of this resolution, to endeavor to create the best possible means to facilitate the measures being used by the security committee [as heard], and to facilitate the issuance of permits to Jordanian manufacturers to allow them to export their products to Iraq.

The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Sami Qammuh and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman.

Earlier in the day, the U.S. delegation met with the finance minister. It visited the Customs Department and the office for receiving requests to export products to Iraq. It also listened to a briefing on the difficulties facing citizens in their efforts to obtain permits to export products to Iraq.

The finance minister informed the delegation that out of 2,950 export requests submitted to the United Nations, approvals granted to Jordanian exporters have not exceeded 330. The minister informed the delegation that the work mechanism being pursued by the Sanctions Committee with regard to the granting of approvals is not clear, arguing that the committee rejects the export of some items to Iraq and endorses the export of similar items included in other requests. This immensely worries the Jordanian citizen, and makes him feel that the party that grants approvals in this regard is lacking in both fairness and credibility, the minister maintained.

It is to be recalled that the U.S. delegation is currently visiting Jordan to sound out Jordan's views with regard to the measures being used by the Sanctions Committee, and also to study the small number of permits granted to Jordanian manufacturers to export their products to Iraq at a time when other countries are granted a number of permits to export to Iraq that is excessively larger than the number of those granted to Jordan.

U.S. Urged to Ease Sanctions Impact

JN1009083593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Sep 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Sanctions Committee and the Double Standards"]

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has explained to the American delegation, which is currently

visiting Jordan to get acquainted with the difficulties facing the Jordanian economy as a result of the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq, that the losses the national economy is sustaining amount to $300 million, not to mention the immense burdens and challenges facing our national economy as a result of Jordan's compliance with the UN resolutions against Iraq.

The losses incurred by the Jordanian national economy are not just due to the stoppage of Jordanian industrial exports bound for the Iraqi market, but also include losses due to the inspection of ships bound for the Port of al-'Aqabah. The inspections increase the costs of imports at the expense of the Jordanian citizens themselves.

The fact is that the UN Sanctions Committee has adopted a double- standard policy in the full sense of the word. This committee only allows the export of a limited number of Jordanian commodities to the Iraqi market. Meanwhile, this committee has issued a large number of approvals to other countries neighboring Iraq, allowing them to export their commodities to Iraq. Out of 2,950 requests submitted by Jordanian exporters to the Sanctions Committee, to export commodities that are not banned by the committee, approvals granted by the Sanctions Committee have not exceeded 330. Furthermore, this committee rejects the export of certain items while approving the export of similar items in requests submitted by other parties. This situation is making Jordanian citizens feel that the party granting approvals lacks both fairness and credibility.

In light of the difficulties sustained by Jordanian citizens, manufacturers, merchants, and shippers; and in light of the embarrassment facing Jordanian officials as a result of pressures from the citizens, who are pressing for permits to export their products to Iraq, we hope that the American delegation will come to an understanding of the situation and alleviate the impact of this resolution on Jordan. We also hope that our country will not continue to be a victim of this resolution, which Jordan is taking part in implementing.

Al-Majali Receives Yemeni Foreign Minister

JN0909173393 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Amman, 9 Sep (PETRA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office this afternoon Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah. Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, also attended the meeting.

Discussion at the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and ways of developing them, in addition to current regional developments.

Following the meeting, the Yemeni foreign minister said Jordanian and Yemeni views on several issues were identical.

In a statement to reporters, he expressed hope that the Higher Joint Jordanian-Yemeni Committee will convene soon, and that the two sides will prepare to hold these meetings in Sanaa as soon as possible.

He said during his meetings with His Highness Prince Hasan, the regent, and the prime minister, they welcomed all efforts by the Yemeni and Jordanian Foreign Ministries toward convening the committee meeting.

On Yemen's position on holding the Arab summit conference, the Yemeni minister said his country calls for holding an Arab summit conference as soon as possible.

Al-Majali Confers With Russian Envoy 9 Sep

JN0909152993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] This morning at his office, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al- Salam al-Majali received Viktor Posuvalyuk, envoy of the Russian leadership and chief of the Near East and North African Administration at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Talks dealt with bilateral relations and the current stage of the Middle East peace process.

Posuvalyuk Hails PLO-Israel Accord

JN0909171193 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Amman, 9 Sep (PETRA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office in the Prime Ministry this morning Viktor Posuvalyuk, envoy of the Russian leadership and chief of the Near East and North African Countries Administration at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The Russian envoy said that during the meeting he conveyed the greetings of the Russian prime minister to the prime minister and handed him a message from Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev dealing with bilateral relations and the current stage of the Middle East peace process.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency following the meeting, he expressed his country's satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, especially in recent years. He said his talks with Jordanian officials dealt with ways of further developing these relations, and emphasized that Russia attaches great importance to this issue.

On developments in the peace process, he said his country supports the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and believes that at this stage the emphasis should be on efforts to make substantial progress on other tracks of the peace negotiations.

He said the Russian sponsor will emphasize this objective at the next stage, and said: We believe the U.S. sponsor shares this desire. He added: The Palestinian-Israeli achievement

should give momentum to the other tracks to move ahead, because we have no other alternative.

As for the multilateral talks, he said during the last meeting of the steering committee of these talks in Moscow, the Russian sponsor expressed its satisfaction with the progress of talks in various multilateral committees. He said Moscow will emphasize in the future bolstering the bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

Cuban Official Arrives in Amman 8 Sep

JN0809120093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Pedro Miret Prieto, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, arrived in Amman at noon today on a visit to Jordan. During the visit he will convey a message for His Majesty King Husayn from Cuban President Fidel Castro. The Cuban official will also hold official talks on cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Meets State Minister al-'Anani

JN0909080293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs, this evening met with Pedro Miret, special envoy of the Cuban president, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and member of the Council of State in Cuba. During the meeting, the two sides discussed aspects of economic cooperation and means to develop bilateral relations to serve the well-being and interests of the two friendly peoples.

The Cuban envoy expressed his government's desire to develop Arab-Cuban relations of cooperation. He reaffirmed the sympathy of the Cuban leadership, government, and people with and support for the Arab countries efforts to achieve their legitimate aspirations.

The Jordanian Government expressed its willingness to cooperate with the Cuban Government in terms of increasing the size of bilateral trade exchange to rectify the trade imbalance, which favors Cuba, between the two countries. This could be done by opening a new market for Jordanian products. Through this market, Jordan could export its products, including medicines, vaccines, and fertilizers to the Cuban market.

This announcement came during a meeting held at the Ministry of Planning this evening between the Jordanian side, headed by Ziyad Fariz, the minister of planning, and the Cuban side, headed by Pedro Miret, vice president of the Council of Ministers, member of the Cuban Council of State, and special envoy of Cuban President Fidel Castro,

Al-Hasan Receives Cuban Envoy 9 Sep

JN0909134993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, received at the Foreign Ministry this morning Pedro Miret Prieto, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, member of the Council of State, and special envoy of His Excellency President Fidel Castro to Jordan, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with issues of mutual concern, foremost of which are bilateral relations and means to reinforce and develop these relations in all fields to benefit the two friendly countries. Furthermore, al-Hasan reviewed latest developments in the peace process, especially the 11th round of bilateral negotiations and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He stressed Jordan's solid position on the peace process and its bases. He also stressed Jordan's support for the Palestinian brothers and their independent decisionmaking until the desired goals are realized in terms of achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace. Moreover, Al-Hasan presented a briefing on democratic life which Jordan is enjoying and seeking to render a success. He also reviewed the economic difficulties and challenges facing Jordan.

For his part, the guest said he hoped to develop bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation. He noted that his visit comes within the framework of bolstering and developing relations with Jordan and Arab countries to reach an understanding on issues of common interest. He praised Jordan's role in pushing the peace process forward.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry's secretary general and a numbers of Foreign Ministry officials.

Cuban Envoy Seeks Support To End Embargo

JN0909160893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received Pedro Prieto Miret, special envoy of Cuban President Fidel Castro and vice president of the Council of Ministers, who is currently visiting Jordan.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs. They discussed various aspects of bilateral relations and ways of finding new horizons for bilateral cooperation, in addition to a number of current issues in the regional and international arenas.

The Cuban official said his country seeks international support to lift the siege imposed on it through UN channels. He said an embargo is an inappropriate technique at the present international stage.

Prince Hasan Confers With Yemeni, Cuban, Russian Officials

JN0909185693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] At the Royal Hashemite Court today, His Highness Prince Hasan, the regent, received Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah. Talks at the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and ways of developing them in various fields. Talks also dealt with latest political developments and ways of reviving Arab solidarity, especially in the current circumstances the Arab nation is passing through, which require more coordination and meetings in order to work out a unified Arab position on urgent issues. The distinguished democratic march in both countries, and ways of making it a distinguished Arab model were also discussed.

His highness also received Pedro Perieto Miret, Cuban vice president of the council of ministers [title as heard], who conveyed to his highness a message addressed to His Majesty King Husayn from Cuban President Fidel Castro. Talks at the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them in a way that serves the two countries. Emphasis was made on the difficulties that several world countries face as a result of poverty, conflicts, and siege, and the need to activate the UN's role in order to shoulder its responsibilities in building a new human order that secures justice, freedom, and respect to human rights.

At the meeting between His Highness Prince Hasan and Viktor Posuvalyuk, chief of Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the Russian Foreign Ministry, Posuvalyuk conveyed the greetings of the Russian leadership to His Majesty King Husayn and its appreciation for the role that his majesty plays in the international arena and his continuous efforts toward just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

Bilateral relations were discussed at the meeting. His highness the regent expressed satisfaction with the development in these relations, particularly in the field of economic cooperation and trade exchange.

Buwayz: Gaza-Jericho Violates Arab Coordination

NC0909131493 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Answering questions raised today by Chamber of Deputies members, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said: I have raised many questions about Arab coordination, peace negotiations, and the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Since united Arab action started, we have heard through the media that the Palestinians were not willing to participate in the negotiations. We always exchanged views objectively and with a sense of national responsibility. In the latest coordination meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab cordon states, I asked [PLO Political Department Chief] Faruq Qaddumi to give us information about the Gaza-Jericho agreement, but he denied any imminent plans in that regard. Buwayz added: When I asked Sa'ib 'Urayqat [member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks] to explain the components of the agreement, he said the plan was imaginary.

Buwayz added: Like the other Arabs, we were surprised by the secret agreement, which violates Arab coordination.

Asked about reports of secret Syrian and Lebanese negotiations with Israel, Buwayz said that the information was disseminated by the Palestinians after the Gaza-Jericho agreement was reached. This he explained, was an attempt by the Palestinians to create confusion and imply that the Palestinians are not the only side engaged in secret negotiations.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1138 GMT on 9 September in a related report adds: "Buwayz said that Lebanon did not, and will not, accept a joint Israeli-Lebanese committee unless Israel explicitly announces its intention to implement Resolution 425 and withdraw from the south. He added: So far, we cannot say that we have reached an agreement with Israel on withdrawal. He stressed that the government has a united position on the negotiations."]

Discusses Agreement With Jordan, Syria

NC0909170893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] The Jordanian foreign minister contacted Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz this afternoon. They discussed the agreement on mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO. Afterward, Buwayz contacted his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' on the same issue. The contacts also dealt with the current negotiations in Washington.

According to Foreign Ministry sources, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation negotiating with the Israelis, contacted Foreign Minister Buwayz three times this afternoon. He briefed him on the progress on the Lebanese-Israeli and other tracks. Shammas told Buwayz no significant development occurred on the Lebanese-Israeli track today.

Lebanon To Negotiate Full Withdrawal Only

NC0909162993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today said Lebanon will not agree to negotiate any topic except that of a complete [Israeli] withdrawal from Lebanese territory beyond the internationally recognized border.

In a radio interview, he called for separating domestic issues and events abroad, especially as the next phase will usher in a new political, not geographical, map. He said that what is taking place is the most important event since the Ottoman Empire disintegrated.

Buwayz said that if genuine peace is sought, the entire Palestinian people must return to their homeland.

PLO Official Urges Arab Unity Against Agreement

NC1009102393 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Recorded dispatch by George Isbin in front of UN headquarters in Beirut]

[Excerpts] Twenty-four hours after PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat recognized the state of Israel following arrival at the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement, Lebanese national and Islamic parties and forces and Palestinian factions in Lebanon called for a sit-in in front of the UN office in B'ir Hasan, near the Kuwaiti Embassy, to protest the agreement. On behalf of the participants in the sit-in, Tawfiq Muhanna read a memorandum addressed to the United Nations and then delivered it to UN representative Amin Haddad. The memorandum says that the Gaza-Jericho agreement robbed the Palestinian people of their rights and undermined the Palestinian cause. It calls for overthrowing Yasir 'Arafat and urges UN support for the rights of the Palestinian people, who reject the agreement.

Radio Free Lebanon spoke to Mr. Salah Salah, chief of the PLO political leadership in Lebanon. He stressed that the Palestinians reject settlement [in Lebanon] and urged the Arab countries concerned with the peace negotiations, especially Syria and Lebanon, to adopt a firm position against the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

[Begin recording] [Isbin] Mr. Salah, 24 hours after Yasir 'Arafat's recognition of Israel you are protesting and rejecting the Gaza-Jericho agreement in front of the UN office. What are the steps you intend to take as a reaction to this agreement?

[Salah] The agreement, with its serious threats to the entire national Palestinian cause [word indistinct] a long Palestinian national struggle that began in 1917 [words indistinct]. Our Palestinian and Arab masses must realize the extent of the agreement's perils, not only to the Palestinians but also to the whole Arab region. [passage omitted]

[Isbin] Are you holding any contacts with the Lebanese and Syrians? What is the extent of your coordination with the Syrian leadership regarding the Gaza-Jericho agreement and what are the moves you intend to make? Is there real coordination, or are you merely holding contacts?

[Salah] There are initial contacts. After about one our, a central delegation representing the Damascus-based 10 Palestinian factions will arrive to hold contacts in Lebanon. Contacts will also begin in Damascus to try to develop a joint Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese position. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-Hariri Returns; Islamic Bank Loan Detailed

NC0909182193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut at 1830 today, ending the third stage of his Arab tour. Saudi Arabia said it would extend $150 million of aid to Lebanon—$100 million in cash and $50 million in equipment.

Our correspondent Khalil Fulayhan has the details: [Begin Fulayhan recording] [passage omitted] Yesterday, al-Hariri was notified by Dr. Ahmad 'Ali, director of the Islamic Development Bank, of the bank's decision to give Lebanon a $7.5-million loan for the 'Akkar electricity project. He also learned that the bank is willing to finance projects worth $40 million for highways, Beirut Airport, and the Lebanese University and to contribute to oil purchases for Lebanon until a Lebanese-Kuwaiti accord on this issue is signed in early October. [end recording]

Hizballah Leader Queried on Resistance, Other Issues

NC0909193093 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 24 Aug 93 p 12

["Exclusive" interview with Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of the Lebanese Hizballah, by an unidentified ETTELA'AT correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [ETTELA'AT] Since one of Israel's objectives was to drive Hizballah from the region near the so-called security belt and deploy the Lebanese Armed Forces instead, could Israel achieve its main objectives?

[Nasrallah] From the outset, Israel's objective was to fight Hizballah. The Israeli enemy's prime minister announced that the operations would not cease until Hizballah was destroyed. But, during the seven-day war, the Israeli enemy was forced to retreat, and he realized that the main objective for which he had initiated the battle had not been realized. He decided to agree to something less and to consent to the second objective—disarming Hizballah. This objective was also unattainable and did not materialize. So Israel had to agree to cease the operations. Eventually, it announced that the objective of the seven-day war had been to halt the launching of Katyusha missiles used by the resistance to attack north Palestine. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Where is the Lebanese Army stationed? How many are they and will they be deployed over a larger area?

[Nasrallah] The Lebanese Army has entered the areas where the UN forces were stationed. There are two zones in the south—the Amal region and the area where the peacekeeping forces are stationed.

The Lebanese Army is now in the second zone, covering places such as Sidon and al-Nabatiyah. There are no Lebanese forces in the first zone, which is under the control of the Amal movement. The Lebanese Government has decided the Lebanese forces should also have a presence there. This can be considered a limited move by the Armed Forces, because only 400-500 soldiers are present in four different areas, entrusted to safeguard internal security.

[ETTELA'AT] Is the objective of deploying the forces merely to safeguard internal security?

[Nasrallah] Yes. The Lebanese Government has announced that this is the objective, that is, assisting the people and safeguarding the country's security. We declared our concern over this decision. But, the Lebanese officials have announced through the mass media and in private meetings that this decision is not tantamount to pressure or restriction on the resistance. But the true situation will emerge in the next few days and the real motives will be revealed. We have had no problems with this, that is, with the limited presence of the Armed Forces in the region; the resistance has encountered no problems.

[ETTELA'AT] Do you think the deployment of the Lebanese forces in the south will be similar to the stationing of other organizations' forces and the Lebanese Armed Forces some years ago in Tyre and Sidon and will hinder the Hizballah operations, especially with Hizballah movement reportedly restricted, their cards confiscated, and so on?

[Nasrallah] This could happen. But, as far as we can glean from officials' stances and insistence, the deployment of the Armed Forces will not hamper the resistance operations. In the first day or two, there were problems, but these were eliminated when we made the necessary contacts.

[ETTELA'AT] What is the Hizballah view on the deployment of the Armed Forces in the south?

[Nasrallah] We do not object to the Armed Forces' presence from any logical point of view. The Armed Forces can maintain a presence in any part of Lebanon. But, we expect the presence and capability of the Armed

Forces to act as an agent to help the resistance, ensuring the same internal security that has been mentioned.

Based on this point of view, we do not agree to any action or political or nonpolitical move that would restrict or end the resistance and we would consider it an act of treachery against the Lebanese nation.

[ETTELA'AT] The Lebanese prime minister said he does not expect Hizballah to coordinate its daily operations with the Lebanese Government, but does expect it to do so when it comes to its extraterritorial operations. What do you think he means by this?

[Nasrallah] The Lebanese foreign minister constantly discusses the coordination between the resistance and the government. Some days ago at the memorial services for the martyrs of the seven-day war, we declared our willingness to discuss joint planning and coordination with all those who are ready to cooperate with us. But, if someone just sits in a corner and gives verbal guidance, we don't need his cooperation!

[ETTELA'AT] It is being stated that Syria opposes stationing the Lebanese Army in the south. Is this true?

[Nasrallah] The Syrians have no fundamental opposition to the deployment of the Lebanese forces. But, based on the information we have, they did have some doubts initially. This has been resolved in numerous contacts with the Syrians.

[ETTELA'AT] During the seven days of attacks by Israel, the government, parliament, and the people of Lebanon expressed their support for the resistance. Was this support enough or was it mere verbal, cosmetic support?

[Nasrallah] We could state that this battle marked the highest point of support possible in Lebanon. The government officials and the parliamentary deputies also announced their support repeatedly during the battle. There were some insinuations about the resistance by a few officials afterward, but these murmurs had no impact on the popular political atmosphere prevailing in Lebanon.

[ETTELA'AT] Hizballah appears to have become a shield for Lebanon, Syria, and the regional countries in respect of their troubles and a trump card in their hands. They want to use the Hizballah card at the negotiating table for greater concessions. Is this true?

[Nasrallah] There is no doubt regional governments, especially those participating in the peace talks, use the Hizballah presence, which is no problem. It is important for us that the conditions should facilitate the constant spread of the resistance. This is our objective. If there are no differences between us and those who benefit from the resistance, there is no problem. The Syrian leadership has consistently supported the resistance.

[ETTELA'AT] If they achieve any gains from the talks, will it not impede Hizballah operations?

[Nasrallah] They have said they will not restrict the resistance until Israel withdraws completely and unconditionally; this is something I believe Israel will never accept.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you assess the stance of the Arab countries on the Israeli operations?

[Nasrallah] As always, the Arab reaction was tepid and disgraceful! It was quite unacceptable, but not unexpected, with the exception of Syria, which had a clear, decisive, and commendable stance. The others' stance was very weak.

[ETTELA'AT] What compromise was reached with Israel to end its seven-day operations and who was involved in it? When the compromise was reached on ending the operations at a specific time, which parties were involved and how was the compromise effected?

[Nasrallah] When the Israelis failed to achieve their objectives and finally agreed that the Katyusha attacks in north Palestine should be halted, they announced they were ready to end the battle. Contacts were made with Damascus, but, undoubtedly, there was no direct contact between the Syrians and the Israelis. The Americans acted as the intermediaries so that a way could be found off this difficult path. The Syrians supported the principle of the resistance, opposed its disarmament, and even opposed a halt to the operations. So, there were some negotiations on ceasing Katyusha missile attacks on north Palestine.

The Syrians also held talks with the Iranian delegation headed by Dr. Velayati and Hizballah officials. I attended the meetings. We were asked how the issue of the Katyusha attacks could be resolved. We said this was easy and required no agreements. The resistance does not depend only on Katyushas, but on the entire series of operations including those on the ground. Hizballah merely used the Katyushas to ward off the Israeli aggression against the people. When Israel halts its aggression against the cities and villages of Lebanon, naturally, the Katyusha operations will also be terminated.

This was not a compromise, but a declaration of the consistent Hizballah policy that has been reiterated over the years. During newspaper interviews, this stance has been frequently repeated; no arcane deal came out in the talks. The Syrians conveyed our position and it was stated that a cease-fire should be announced. We said it wasn't necessary, but Israel started the war and it should end it. The two sides agreed upon the time.

No compromise was signed in this respect. Israel announced the cease-fire or a halt to the war. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] What was the role played by Iran, Syria, and the United States? The Western media stressed the U.S. role, while the regional media emphasized the roles of Iran and Syria. Could you please explain their roles separately?

[Nasrallah] The United States wanted to act in a manner that would enable Israel to achieve its objectives. The United States sought to ensure Israeli interests. That's why, from the outset, the United States condemned Hizballah as the cause of the explosive situation in the region, although everyone knew the Israeli enemy initiated the war and aggression. The United States did not care about the bombing in south Lebanon or the martyrdom of the people. [passage omitted] As for the role of Iran and the Iranian delegation in Damascus, the very presence of Iran strengthened the Syrian and Lebanese stance. Syria and Lebanon were under threat and the Israeli military operations were exerting pressure on them, which required support from the Arab and Islamic countries. The Iranian delegations and Government proved effective from this angle.

Second, during the Iranian delegation's contacts with Syria and Lebanon, the Islamic Resistance got the opportunity to enhance its position so that its identity and continuation were defended. This effective and positive stance was also due to Iran. All the regional governments and people also realized that Iran would utilize all its resources to confront the aggression, usurping, and hostility by Israel, that it would protect the honor of the regional nations and the aspirations of the Islamic Resistance, and that it would stand steadfast against Israel outside the political sphere.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has never hesitated to support the Lebanese people and the Islamic Resistance, but the circumstances have made us realize that the Islamic and Arab countries should support Lebanon so that the Lebanese people can stand up against the Israeli aggression and animosity. Iran was the country that responded positively.

[ETTELA'AT] Who benefited from the halt to the operations?

[Nasrallah] As I said earlier, the halt to the operations was in the interest of the Lebanese people. But the Resistance attacks will not cease. In the past few days, extensive operations were carried out against Israel; they were important and conspicuous. Nine Israeli soldiers were killed.

The Resistance operations continue at opportune moments. But the Israeli operations against the people have stopped.

Israel imagined it could create a rift between the people and Hizballah. We decided to help the people rebuild their houses and this has served to strengthen the bond between the people and Hizballah. Today, there is great national solidarity, which revolves around support for the Islamic Resistance. Israel sought to pressure the people and distance them from the Resistance. We have always striven to forge true solidarity between the people and the Resistance. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] How long can you continue this tactic of resistance?

[Nasrallah] Lebanon lies near this cancerous tumor, a regime based on aggression and usurping lands and religious sites and aggressing against the rights of nations; it has unleashed tyranny on the people and massacres innocent youth and others. In the face of such a system, there is only one option—resistance. Sacrifices are the price we must pay, but we cannot submit before such a system, as such a surrender would not be an option in keeping with our determination.

[ETTELA'AT] Israel has reportedly warned Hizballah over their latest operations and vice versa. What is the extent of these warnings?

[Nasrallah] As for the Resistance operations, those aimed at the Israeli military centers will continue and will never cease unless Israel withdraws from south Lebanon. As for a halt to Katyusha attacks in north Palestine, we adhere to that as long as Israel does not bomb residential areas in Lebanon. When Israel embarks on aggression, we consider it our right and that of the people of Lebanon to use this weapon. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] How do you view the future? What objective does Hizballah seek to achieve?

[Nasrallah] We believe the resistance operations should continue until the usurping ends. Part of our country is under Israeli occupation. The Resistance commenced these operations in view of the specific and legitimate objective of driving out the aggressor and has inflicted considerable losses on the Israeli enemy in the past few years.

Israel has mentioned withdrawal from Lebanese territory. The deciding factor was the Resistance operations. This is the objective of Hizballah and the Resistance. Israel should withdraw unconditionally from the occupied areas. We believe that continuing the Resistance operations and pressure on Israel will motivate the regime to withdraw from our territory.

[ETTELA'AT] It is said that following recent developments, Hizballah is bound to enter a new phase in its actions. What is your opinion?

[Nasrallah] Yes. This issue was also mentioned in various articles in the Iranian press. But it became clear that when Hizballah participated in elections and entered parliament, some circles expected it to give up its military operations gradually. They have witnessed Hizballah's military and jihad operations strengthening and spreading daily. Israel has admitted that Hizballah's operations have increased quantitatively and qualitatively in the past six months. They consider the operations to have expanded. This is because Hizballah entered parliament.

Hizballah has had a very active political presence, which it has used to strengthen the Islamic Resistance. It will continue to do so. In these seven days of military operations, it was proved that the extensive political efforts by Hizballah and its contacts with individual

personalities and groups helped the Resistance and enabled the people of Lebanon to gain a clearer picture of it.

[ETTELA'AT] Following the announcement of the end of the attacks by Israel, the Western media stated that Hizballah was the scapegoat and its disarming was one of the conditions for the halt to the attacks. What is the Hizballah opinion?

[Nasrallah] We are confident this was not the case. I do not believe any danger threatens the Resistance.

[ETTELA'AT] The Zionist regime has waxed eloquent on the stance of Syria and its restraint. What is the reason for this?

[Nasrallah] Israeli radio sought to create intense propaganda by sowing discord and sedition and it announced in its programs: "Hafiz al-Asad is the head of the Ba'th Party and according to Imam Khomeyni, the Ba'th Party is an infidel party. As the secretary general of an infidel party, how can you support an Islamist trend? Are you not afraid that this Islamic movement and process will spread daily and you will be unable to control it? You will only lose your own existence."

This is how Israeli radio seeks to foment trouble. But Hafiz al-Asad knows that praise by Israel is part of the tactic to create a rift. Al-Asad keeps reiterating his defense of the Resistance and its legitimate right.

[ETTELA'AT] It appears that the peace talks have progressed. Lebanon insists on the implementation of Resolution 425. In the talks, Resolutions 242 and 338 are being mentioned; there is no mention of Resolution 425, which Lebanon wants. How do you view the peace prospects and what will be the outcome of the talks for Lebanon?

[Nasrallah] The Lebanese side insists that Resolution 425 be implemented, that is, Israel should withdraw from south Lebanon unconditionally. The Israelis do not agree with this resolution and state that before withdrawal, they should sign a peace accord with Lebanon. The Lebanese side cannot give any privileges or concessions to Israel from the political or nationalistic point of view as long as Israel is present on Lebanese territory. So, it seems the status quo will continue indefinitely.

[ETTELA'AT] What plans are there for the south and its reconstruction, since there remains a possibility of renewed Israeli attacks?

[Nasrallah] The people have returned to their homes quickly and the Resistance has decided to assist the people. Some homes are already finished.

The possibility of other operations by Israel exists. But the people support the Resistance and it should provide the people with its wholehearted support.

[ETTELA'AT] I thank you for sparing us some time.

Damascus Reports PLO-Israeli Mutual Recognition

JN1009083893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0815 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Text] Occupied Palestine—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning signed the letter recognizing the PLO in the presence of Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst. The Norwegian foreign minister arrived at Tel Aviv Airport this morning to hand Yitzhaq Rabin the writ [al-sakk] signed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the PLO's recognition of Israel.

Al-Hirawi, Mubarak Telephone al-Asad 9 Sep

JN0909205293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad today received a telephone call from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. During the telephone conversation, the two presidents discussed the Arab situation as well as current Palestinian developments.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad also received another telephone call from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of Egypt today. During the telephone conversation, the two presidents discussed bilateral issues.

Paper Blames U.S. for 'Stalled' Peace Talks

JN1009074093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The editorial and opinion columns of today's papers are dominated by the state of the 11th round of the Washington peace talks.

AL-THAWRAH writes: A series of lengthy sessions in the 11th round of the Washington talks have failed to register any progress to enhance the chances of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Just as it must be held responsible for the failure of the past 10 rounds to make any headway, Israel must take the blame for the gridlock in the 11th round. The commitment and seriousness Israel was supposed to have evinced in its approach to all matters of substance were evidently lacking.

AL-THAWRAH noted that the Israeli negotiators have shown themselves to be anti-peace and spared no pains to keep the peace process locked in a vicious circle. Israel's negativism this time was most evident in sidestepping the heart of the peace process; namely, full and unqualified withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Middle East peace, the paper emphasized, must be fair and comprehensive. Movement of the peace process revolves around a shift in the Israeli position on the question of withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, AL-THAWRAH added.

If by such diversionary tactics Israel is betting on finding a way out from this prescription for a just peace and squeezing fresh territorial concessions from the Arabs, it is surely making a losing bet. This is because the Arabs, most of all Syria, will not relinquish a single iota of their territory or rights.

Israel must realize that the only peace that stands a chance is one that ensures the Arabs get back their occupied lands and rights, the paper concluded.

In another column, AL-THAWRAH observes that the second week of the 11th round of the Washington peace talks ended inconclusivley, and blames Israel's temporization and diversionary tactics to drain the peace process of any substance. That the peace talks have stalled cannot be blamed on the Arabs, who have consistently been positive and constructive and displayed a real commitment to the terms on which the Madrid conference was launched. The blame must be laid at the door of Israel, the international community, and especially the United States, which AL-THAWRAH notes, authored the land-for-peace formula grounded in UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and bound itself by pledges, commitments, and guarantees. The United States also pledged itself to act, on behalf of the international community, as a full and impartial partner in the quest for a fair peace.

The paper called on the United States, which it said is holding back from putting pressure on Israel, to see to the enforcement of UN Security Council resolutions and crack Israel's stubborness in the interest of security and peace and the recovery of Arab territories and rights.

Delegation Leaves for Canberra IPU Meeting

JN0909152793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] A People's Assembly delegation led by Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah has left Damascus for Canberra, Australia, to attend the 90th conference of the Interparliamentary Union [IPU].

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Agrees To Release Russian POW's

BK0909111693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1106 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 9 (AFP)—Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has agreed to release an unspecified number of Russian prisoners of war, a spokesman for his radical Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] party said here Thursday [9 September].

The pledge came in talks in the Afghan capital Kabul with visiting Russian foreign minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Mengal Hussain, who was instrumental in arranging Wednesday's meeting between Hekmatyar and Kozyrev, told AFP that the issue of prisoners and Tajik-Afghan border clashes were at the centre of their talks.

The meeting was held in Hekmatyar's Charasiab base in Kabul's suburbs.

Hussain said Hekmatyar, whose party is believed to be holding an unknown number of Russians captured during the guerrilla war, had "responded positively" to Kozyrev's request for their release.

In return Kozyrev promised to provide Russian mine sweeping experts and equipment to help clear the millions of mines laid throughout Afghanistan during the 10-year Soviet occupation until 1989, he added.

Both sides also agreed to use their influence to defuse tension and normalise the situation along the Tajik-Afghan border and undertook to resolve future problems through peaceful negotiations and not through military means.

Both Kozyrev and Hekmatyar said they hoped to improve bilateral relations, which have been tense since the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Afghan sources said Kozyrev also discussed trade and economic cooperation and the possibility of Russian aid.

Kozyrev is scheduled to travel to the Tajikistan capital Dushanbe after talks with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani Thursday.

Pakistani sources said Hekmatyar had agreed to release the POWs unconditionally on Islamabad's insistence that the issue be treated on humanitarian grounds.

Kozyrev's trip was his second to Afghanistan since May last year soon after the Muslim mojahedin guerrillas took over Kabul following the collapse of the Soviet-installed communist government.

India

Significance of Rao's Visit to ROK Noted

BK1009042793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Sep 93

[Commentary by T.G. Nallmuthu, All India Radio Southeast Asia correspondent]

[Text] The first-ever summit meeting betweer. the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the South Korean president, Mr. Kim Yong-sam, could be an important landmark in relations between the two countries. While we await details of the meeting that concluded a short while ago, it is very clear that this will bring the two democracies on the road to economic liberalization and globalization together in future cooperative efforts.

Mr. Narasimha Rao is not new to South Korea. He had earlier visited the country as foreign minister. But when he set foot on the Korean soil yesterday, it was the first time ever for an Indian prime minister to do so. The South Korean foreign minister, Dr. Hang Sung-chu, who was waiting for Mr. Rao to alight from the plane, said the visit is of a great political significance. The first-ever summit will stimulate an economic partnership and the two sides can work together toward combining democracy and economic development, as both are liberalizing and globalizing their economies.

In their meeting, the two sides will discuss ways to improve relations in all fields—economic, cultural, political, and diplomatic. They will also discuss regional situations in their area. The agreement between India and China to reduce troop strength on the border with a view to build mutual confidence is viewed in Seoul as a good signal for regional stability. The signal is loud and clear that India is very serious in its economic liberalization path, and Mr. Rao's immediate next stop being Seoul should allay any leftover apprehensions in the minds of Korean businessmen about investments in India.

While political goodwill and understanding at the top will provide inspiration for Korean enterprise, Mr. Rao's direct interaction with them, first at the Indo-Korean Joint Business Council meeting and later over lunch with heads of major business associations of South Korea and in his individual meetings with chairmen of Korean multinationals, should encourage greater Korean trade and investments in India. How to attract trade and capital investments to India and how India should spread its linkages in the emerging Asia-Pacific economic scenario was the subject at the meeting the prime minister had last night with heads of mission of the eastern region. He will have another session with them before he winds up his visit, and it is felt that diplomacy in future will have a strong economic content.

U.S. Sanctions Against Pakistan, PRC Viewed

BK0509115293 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 5 Sep 93

[P.C. Kapur Commentary]

[Text] Imposing of U.S. sanctions on China and Pakistan for a period of two years in retaliation of the transfer of Chinese M-11 missile component and technology to Pakistan is a half-hearted attempt and also taken belatedly. Ever since 1989, India has been drawing the attention of the world community, especially the USA to the threat perceptions against India, but the USA has been sidetracking Indian interests.

On the contrary, Washington imposed sanctions against Indian Space Research Organization and Russian counterpart on the supply of cryogenic engine technology. But, scientists anywhere know cryogenic engine cannot be used for carrying warheads. The time of the sanctions is also very significant as Indian Foreign Secretary Mr. Dixit is on visit to Washington and Pakistani foreign secretary is scheduled to visit Washington next week. It is like a signal to India that the USA would not let India go by her program to develop missile technology, what may come.

Before we start discussing implications of the sanctions, let us understand what these sanctions are. The sanctions imposed against Pakistan and China belong to Category Two of the Missile Technology Control Regime. These sanctions are imposed if the transfer involves certain items which contribute to missile development. These sanctions include denial of new export licenses for two years for items like rocket propellent; mechanisms of separating rocket stages; rocket motor cases; insulations and nozzles; instrumentation and navigation equipment; flight control systems; avionic equipment, such as radar and global positioning system; long support equipment; certain type of computer and softwares; and testing facilities. It may show some concern of the U.S. administration about Pakistan's nuclear program, but the impact of these sanctions against Pakistan would be minimal.

The very fact that both China and Pakistan have not given direct and specific reply to the transfer of M-11 missiles capable of carrying more than 1,110 pound nuclear warhead up to 300 miles is a proof itself that, apart from transfer of technology, China has supplied M-11 missiles. India had supplied this information to the USA as far back as in 1988-89, and Washington's own intelligence agency, the CIA, had also informed the U.S. administration about it where it is the point for the USA to assert and know whether Pakistan, after requisition of sensitive Chinese technology, is capable of manufacturing the M-11 missile with a range to hit the Indian cities [sentence as heard]. Ms. Lynne Davis, Under Secretary of State for International Security, should have taken stricter punitive action against Beijing and Islamabad than the one it took on Wednesday.

According to JANE'S INTELLIGENCE REVIEW, report of Sino-Pakistani missile cooperation first came in 1987-88, focussing on negotiations over the sale of M-11 ballistic missiles. Chinese assistance in developing Pakistan's 400 km Hatf-2 surface-to-surface missile was confirmed in 1989. In April 1990, the USA report confirmed Chinese program to transfer M-11 missiles to Pakistan by February 1991 and the first delivery of Transporter Erector Launchers (TEL's) for M-11's had begun in February 1991. The sanctions would at least dampen Islamabad's efforts to improve already troubled relations with Washington, but it would not make Pakistan suffer economically from the two-three years freeze on the U.S. aid. It would have only psychological impact as it came during the election period.

U.S. Bias Against PRC, Pakistan Perceived

BK0109120193 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 27 Aug 93 p 8

[Editorial: "The Lid is Off"]

[Text] For about two years, China and Pakistan resorted to outright lies, half-truths and specious arguments to cover up their deal relating to M-11 missiles. This exertion has eventually proved futile. It has not averted American retaliatory action under the Missile Technology Control Regime [MTCR]. Chinese casuistry rested especially on the cosy assumption that since the missile is supposed to have a range of 150 km while the MTCR guidelines barred only missiles with a range of 300 km, Washington should have no objection to the Sino-Pakistan deal. But Beijing obviously reckoned without unilateral American action to do away with this range-limit. The fig-leaf having thus been rudely removed, China and Pakistan were confronted with apparently clinching evidence (based, inter alia, on satellite pictures of unloading operations in Karachi harbour) that the Chinese shipment of the missiles or parts of the missiles did take place.

The whole truth about the shipment is, however, not yet out. Did it contain only materials with which Pakistan could build missiles or whole missiles? The only thing that is officially known is that the Americans decided that the missile itself was not sent. Was this judgment made simply to avoid enforcing more stringent sanctions than have now been enforced (barring export of space system items, electronics items, rocket propellants, etc)? If stiffer sanctions were applied, then the volume of US trade with China would have come down to a far greater extent than the 400 to 500 million dollars worth trade which would be affected by the announcement in question. Did, in other words, the US try to balance its economic interests with its fixation about MTCR? The possibility that the US stopped short of determining that missiles, rather than parts, have been shipped to Pakistan and thus avoided stiffer sanctions is suggested by the Pakistani official reaction. A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Islamabad admitted on Wednesday that Pakistan had received short-range tactical missiles.

The American confirmation of the Sino-Pakistani deal regarding M-11 components and technology has not taken New Delhi unawares. Reports about collusion between China and Pakistan on security have frequently appeared in the Western press and India has naturally attached utmost importance to them. What is really disconcerting is the stubborn American disregard of legitimate Indian security interests while rattling the MTCR weapon. In forcing Russia to go back on its contract for the supply of cryogenic rocket engines to India, Washington did not bother to give due weight to the peaceful purposes it was meant to serve. To compare this deal with the M-11 missile technology supply to Pakistan is to indulge in gross distortion. The Americans must find better ways of showing their so-called "even-handedness."

Nation's 'Rightful' Place in World Viewed

BK0909125393 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 25 Aug 93 p 13

[Commentary by H.K. Dua]

[Text] India, which had set its sights high at the time of Independence 46 years ago, is finding itself isolated in the world and considerably marginalised. Not only is it missing what should have been its rightful place in the world by now, it is also increasingly coming under pressure from tbe world community on many counts. And unless leaders and people of this country put their act together these pressures can grow in intensity.

Discerning observers could see during the last few years that India was slowly losing its preeminent position in the world affairs. Occasional concern over this unwelcome development was being voiced in different quarters as well as in Parliament. The government has been experiencing these pressures directly for quite some time, but what is significant is that the Prime Minister chose to speak about them in his Independence Day speech. It could be that the impact of international pressures has reached a level where Mr. Narasimha Rao thought it was necessary for him to take the people into confidence about his government's difficulties on this account. Maybe he was also making use of the opportunity to send a signal to the world that India could not be expected to acquiesce to unreasonable demands.

There was not much Red Fort rhetoric in Mr. Rao's speech—at least not about issues concerning India's relations with other countries. He cooly mentioned the cryogenic engine affair and how India was being denied technology in an area crucial for its space programme. He expressed the confidence that Indian scientists would be able to develop indigenous technology and go ahead with the programme. The Prime Minister also spoke about the threats to take away Kashmir from India and made it clear that his government will not part with what rightfully belongs to it.

These are reassuring statements and deserve to be given importance considering that these have been made by the Prime Minister on behalf of the country and his government. But are these statements from the Red Fort enough to fend off the pressures that are coming from different directions?

India is not an island unto itself and cannot afford to ignore the vast changes that have taken place in the world, but what should cause concern is the studied attempt to deny to it its freedom of choice and action and its keenness to pursue its legitimate goals. Closing eyes to the changed world and the nature of these pressures and their potentiality can lead to either complacency or a faulty assessment, and, perhaps, half-baked and risky responses.

The United States has had no difficulty in persuading Russia to renege on its commitment to supply cryogenic technology to India. So concerned has been Washington about India's space programme that President Clinton himself took up the issue with Mr. Boris Yeltsin at the Tokyo meeting of the G-7 and made him toe the U.S. line. Interestingly, when President Clinton was talking to President Yeltsin in Tokyo, senior State Department officials were camping in Moscow making a parallel attempt to force Russia not to give cryogenic technology to India. They succeeded.

Denying cryogenic technology to India indicates only a part of an overall policy the rich and the powerful seem to have evolved towards India. That the policy has been well-planned and is being executed in concert is clear from the demarches the Group of Seven simultaneously gave to India last month asking India to freeze its vital programme to develop the surface-to-air Agni [fire] missile and stop the deployment of the surface-to-surface Prithvi [earth] missile. In effect, the U.S. and its industrialised friends want India to desist from developing and deploying missiles which can reach targets beyond 300 kilometres and carry 500 kilograms of payload. India can thus have toys to play with and not missiles to augment its defence capability.

That the West wants India to give up its nuclear option through the Non-Proliferation Treaty or some other route is well known. Its view of South Asia as a possible area of a nuclear conflict has led it to launch pressures on both India and Pakistan to work out a bilateral agreement or a regional arrangement envisaging nuclear abstinence. And if they cannot agree on non-proliferation they should stop producing nuclear material even for civilian purposes and begin rolling back their nuclear programmes to the West's satisfaction. Washington's logic is simple: These South Asians can be irresponsible people who might use nuclear weapons to destroy themselves or embroil the rest of the world in a conflict it does not want to see. The constable on the beat after all does not like unapproved street brawls; they disturb his peace of mind and make him look irrelevant.

Washington's or the West's attitude is reflected not only in the cryogenic affair but also in the sale of high technology in many crucial areas like metallurgy. India

can make Coca Cola or Pepsi or a new brand of perfumed soap but it cannot have access to high-tech areas which will reduce the sales of their sophisticated goods in the expanding Indian markets. In other words, Indians can be trusted to acquire know-how only up to a particular level and not beyond and also that the level of development has to be determined not by the Indians but by others for them.

The pressures on India with regard to Kashmir are somewhat more than gentle. Maybe they have been stepped up lately. Too many ideas are floating around to permit comfort for New Delhi. These ideas have come up significantly in the wake of a sustained blackmail that Pakistan has resorted to by way of terrorism during the last eight years.

The West expects India to be sensitive to human rights and resolve the Kashmir question by talking to the people in Kashmir and Pakistan. This means that the industrialised world is not accepting the present Line of Control as the dividing line between what belongs to India and what has gone to Pakistan as a fruit of aggression. The status quo is sought to be disturbed and—let there be no mistake about it—to India's disadvantage.

Interestingly, the pressures on various fronts— nuclear programme, missiles, human rights and Kashmir—are being felt within the corridors of power in Delhi. The demarches are only an indication. The Government must be knowing more about these. The range of subcontinental issues that have suddenly gone up on Washington's agenda as well as the synchronisation of the moves by it and the industrialised world cannot be ignored by our policy makers in the government and leaders of Opposition parties.

Some jealousy of India as it stepped out into the world 46 years ago was understandable. The ruled are often not expected to play in the same league even if they have earned the right to sit on the same table and handle the fork and knife. To be accepted in the club of the rich and the powerful is, however, not easy. In any case there is no free entry or free lunch anytime in the world. But lately, the world is becoming somewhat more wary and critical of India's present weakness and future potential.

If the world considers that India can be fiddled with, it is our fault. Maybe our policy was wrong at times, maybe we were blind to the changes that were going on in the world, including the collapse of the Soviet Union. Maybe several years of political instability or India's failure to build economic strength in the 1980s are responsible for the state the country is in. But the people and the leaders must understand that the world takes only those nations seriously which take themselves seriously. Unfortunately, as a nation we have been too casual during the last two decades about retaining our place in the world.

We are a divided nation right down to the village, caught in tradition, fighting over caste, mosques, temples and much else. The simple fact is that we are weak in the world's eyes and we convey the impression that our arm can be twisted. Not all is lost, though. India need not get overawed by the situation. Rightly handled, a challenging situation can be put to creative use.

A confrontationist approach would be as unrealistic as empty rhetoric. To ensure that India does not allow itself to be browbeaten into accepting what is not in its national interest would require a certain vision, clarity of thought, some pooling of heads by our leaders in the government and in the Opposition and an attempt to evolve a national consensus cutting across party lines. But will our leaders give up their petty quarrels that are consuming the nation's energy and diverting its focus on essential national aims that need to be pursued. Will our leaders rise to the occasion.?

Iran

Majles Deputy Reviews Israeli-PLO Deal

LD0909213193 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1538 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Interview with Mohammad Javad Larijani, head of the Majles Foreign Affairs Committee, by unidentified announcer; from the "Political Roundtable" program—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Mr. Larijani, as you know, some authoritative Palestinian organizations, such as HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement], have opposed the limited autonomy plan for Palestinians. Now then, would it be possible to implement this plan?

[Larijani] It is obvious that the implementation of the plan, taking into account the political situation, has certain calculated parts. There seems to be no difficulty with those [parts] dealing with the PLO, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt, as well as other interested parties. In other words, something like this had been proposed in the context of peace negotiations. This is based on the six-point Egyptian proposal, put forward after the expulsion of some Palestinian groups. The ideas were there, and so it did not seem extraordinary to them. Although they were taken by surprise with PLO and Israel taking the situation forward.

But the final implementation of the plan, with the existing plans, is undoubtedly in the hands of the Intifadah and the Islamic uprising of the people. Possibly there has never been a point in the Palestinian history where the uprising was so significant. Here lies the main point. We must not forget some of the Israeli intentions. For example, it would be very interesting for Israel if the organizations supporting 'Arafat clashed with Islamic organizations, such as HAMAS or the Islamic Jihad. In other words: the PLO standing against Intifadah instead of against Israel. These are the factors that will determine the future of the plan.

If the Palestinians remain careful, do not stand or fight against each other, and maintain Intifadah, I think the plan will be doomed to failure. Israel will not implement anything except the initial parts of the autonomy, and they will return to the starting point. But if the plan moves toward clashes between Palestinians, and if the clashes are intensified, then the Islamic uprising will face serious danger. But in the final [analysis] I cannot see an easy implementation for the plan because Intifadah was not created overnight, and it will not be destroyed overnight. All the factors that brought about the Intifadah continue to exist. In other words, the aggressions, the nature, the behavior, and the aims of the Zionist regime continue to exist. Therefore, Intifadah cannot disappear overnight. While Intifadah exists, Israel will not succeed with its plans. My initial forecast is that we will have a three-to-six month period which we can call a period of observation. This period will clarify whether the plan will advance. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] What is your forecast regarding the countries bordering the Zionist regime, particularly Lebanon and south Lebanon?

[Larijani] Well, we have to return to the general aims of Israel. In the final [analysis] Israel demands two things from this section of its borders. First: That there should be no military movement against Israel from the Lebanese side. This is immediate and has, in fact, been achieved to some degree. Following the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, a de facto agreement has been reached, that no one should attack Israel from southern Lebanon. The second Israeli aim is to disarm the Hizballah in Lebanon. This aim must be settled through Syria and is no longer a Lebanese issue. Thus, we have to say that, with regard to the Lebanon-Israeli border there is no difficulty with the plan. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] You made some remarks at the beginning of your statements regarding Israel's objectives; but generally what objectives is Israel pursuing and what objectives is the PLO—the Yasir 'Arafat leadership—pursuing at this juncture by accepting such a plan?

[Larijani] In reality, it must be said that Israel and the United States are moving toward a second Camp David. The first Camp David was set up during Carter's time. He was a Democrat. The second Camp David is also to be signed during Clinton's time, in the not-too-distant future, with the same hue and cry.

Of course, just as peace with Egypt was the main point in the first Camp David, in the second Camp David, peace with Syria is the main point. The two sides have prepared the ground for the agreement. Israel has agreed to hand over the Golan Heights. Of course, it has some security concerns that can be eliminated through some plans. For instance, the overlooking area may be guarded by UN or U.S. forces for a long period of time; on the other hand, Syria also has agreed, in principle, to recognize Israel, to open an embassy, have relations, etc. This is the most advertised axis of the second Camp David.

But alongside those, Israel is pursuing at least three other objectives. One is the issue I have referred to, that of security along Lebanese borders. Part of it is military nonaggression—which is being implemented in practice. Another part is the disarmament of the Hizballah, and Israel must be expected to impose that on Syria in exchange for peace. The second point is Israel's introduction into the regional market, especially where there is substantial money; that is, in the Persian Gulf region. During Baker's tenure there was an agreement between the states of the Arab section of the Persian Gulf, the United States, and Israel so that they—the Israelis—came to the Persian Gulf region for oil production, for dealing with deserts, for water desalination, and for regional development. Later information shows that at least some substantial companies in [Saudi] Arabia and Kuwait have concluded serious agreements with Israel. It is most important for Israel to find its way into the Middle East market, especially where there is substantial money. This is the course which must be set alongside the second Camp David.

Therefore, you see that the Persian Gulf region states always confirm those maneuvers [tamhidat]. One country after another strikes Israel off the trade blacklist and agrees to contacts with Israeli companies. This process continues.

The other main section is the issue of Intifadah. The Intifadah must be extinguished. This is Israel's very important goal. Israel has come to the conclusion that putting pressure on Intifadah will not extinguish it. Now, the next plan is to keep the Palestinians busy with their day-to-day affairs and to turn their attention toward improving living conditions. You must take into consideration that the people, that is, hundreds of thousands of Palestinian people, are in a large prison and are deprived of resources. They have very arduous lives. That is why it [Israel] has started in the Gaza Strip, since the worst economic situation exists there. Well, Israel has decided to act in this fashion, to start [in this fashion]: A certain amount of improvement is brought about—the Arab states of the Persian region have announced that they will give 2 billion dollars worth of aid, the United States is to give aid, the World Bank is to help, the Seven Industrialized States are to help, and Israel itself announced it would help as well. All that aid is not for the sake of the people of Palestine; they demonstrated that they have not the slightest liking for those people. They [Israel] want the people to desist from the Intifadah, and to begin to trade.

Well, if they embark on trade they will be doing so from a very weak position. They have nothing in hand to trade with. They have no cards to play with. All the neighboring states will have made peace; Intifadah will have ended. They will only be able to haggle over trivial things: Whether a guard post should be 200 meters further this way or that! This is the objective that it [Israel] has regarding the self-rule plan. I believe those to be Israel's main objectives in promoting its own peace plan, and that peace plan is a substantial threat to the

world of Islam. In reality it is not a peace plan; it is a maneuver aimed at Israel's domination over the whole world.

But, we are forgetting all the realities. Israel is a racist regime by nature; it is like South Africa. Millions of people are refugees. As I noted, their houses exist with their addresses, but they themselves do not have the right to go to their homes. The rights of the people of Palestine have been forgotten altogether. The Israelis will not discuss Beytolmoqaddas [Jerusalem] now because politically it is not to their advantage. When the time comes, their argument will be that Beytolmoqaddas is an indivisible part of the Zionist land.

Well, you see all those important issues must be relegated to oblivion in the coming process. I believe it unlikely that the self-rule plan, even at its zenith, its culmination and completion, offers anything much more than what it is. They may add a few more cities and areas to it. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] What will the PLO gain from the deal you talked about?

[Larijani] In reality, the PLO [will gain] control of the self-rule plan. That is, the honor that the PLO will achieve is that if the self-rule plan develops, in reality they will rule, will seize the power within the limits of the power that the Israelis have bestowed on them. If the Intifadah is destroyed, it is obvious that the PLO will dominate those areas and rule them; slightly more than, say, a governor general, but within those limits. This is the maximum that the PLO will attain from the whole deal.

[Announcer] In a general conclusion for forecasting the future, do you think we are going to finally witness a solution to the Middle East problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Larijani] If by a solution we mean the strengthening of the Israeli domination, events show that this would be in the interest of Israel and the United States. We have to forecast the extent of the Israeli and U.S. influence and domination—supported by some governments—that will increase in many Islamic countries; but against these stands the wave of Islamic awakening. This, wherever it may be, is a formidable wave. Israel and the United States will be very successful as long as governments are on the other side of the deal. But when it comes to the point where nations speak powerfully, then they will have difficulties. We should therefore hope for the movement of Islamic awakening. This could have the final word. If this movement progresses toward silence, the U.S. and Israeli domination of the Islamic world will be more or less definite. But if the movement of Islamic awakening picks up momentum, it will not leave them standing and they will not have a long life.

Ties With Gulf Sought Despite UAE Claim to Islands

LD0909160593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0953 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] While the Middle East region is witnessing the sacrificial destruction of Palestine's aspirations and the PLO's endeavors to close the record on 40 years of continuous and bloody struggle of the Palestinian people with self-rule over two percent of Palestine's soil, the foreign ministers of the member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], in their latest session in Riyadh, have ignored regional priorities and this great conspiracy and have supported the claims of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] regarding the Iranian islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa.

The warning given by western officials to the shaykhdoms of the Persian Gulf littoral on what was termed as Iran's expansionist drives, demonstrates that sowing discord and disputes among the regional countries is part of the West's present policies, which are aimed at profiting more from the region and at closing the file of the Middle East crisis to the benefit of the Zionist regime.

Our country's Foreign Ministry issued a statement expressing regret at the disregard shown toward the positive steps that Iran has taken to adhere to existing understandings with regard to the Abu Musa island. The statement also advised that the GCC should refrain from taking such a stance. It was hoped that, after the crisis of Kuwait—which had its roots in the unwise financial and military support given by some member countries of the GCC to the war and to Iraq's territorial claims regarding Iran—the countries of the region would not repeat their past mistake, but would continue their efforts to maintain the security and stability of this strategic region.

The support given again by the governments of GCC member countries to the UAE's unjust claim concerning the Iranian islands of the Persian Gulf is regrettable—especially when, because of the baselessness of the UAE's claim, international legal and political forums have even avoided involvement in the issue so far.

In spite of the fact that Islamic Iran is the biggest and most powerful country in the region, it always prefers to follow a policy of fraternity and friendship with its neighbors, and, in an Islamic manner, to follow the goals of its revolution in increasing fraternity and cooperation with Islamic countries. On the basis of this, and despite the baseless claims of some of the UAE's officials regarding the Iranian islands, the officials of our country—in accordance with the revolution's recommendations that Muslims should maintain their unity and Muslim countries should expand their relations and cooperation—will continue to cooperate with these countries.

History has shown that the rich, oil-bearing Persian Gulf region is highly attractive to exploitative international powers who need to create discord between the regional political statesmen. If bilateral or even group [jam'i] talks continue in a friendly atmosphere, this can neutralize foreign plots and help promote a climate of trust in the region, thus reducing the grounds for transgression on the part of regional governments. As we have already seen, territorial disputes among GCC member countries have not prevented them from enjoying harmony and peaceful coexistence.

Croatian Envoy Summoned Over 'Torture' of Bosnians

LD0909135893 Tehran IRNA in English 1234 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 9, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry on Thursday [9 September] summoned Croatian ambassador to Tehran, Osman Muftic, and informed him of Iran's grave concern about the atrocities of Croats against Bosnian Muslims in Mostar.

Director general in charge of central and northern Europe at the Foreign Ministry, Ibrahim Rahimpour, told Muftic that the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the torture and beating up of Bosnian prisoners in Croatian camps. He called on the Zagreb Government to use its influence in that region and stop such "savage acts".

The Croatian ambassador expressed regret, on behalf of the Zagreb Government and his own behalf, over such inhuman acts. He claimed that because of the complexity of the situation in the region, Zagreb has been unable to prevent perpetration of such acts. Muftic promised that Croatia will do its best to settle the issue.

Pakistan

Editorial Cautions Against Optimism on U.S Ties

BK0909111793 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Sep 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Pak-US Relations—Shahryar's Overoptimism"]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Mr. Shahryar Khan has described the just concluded US-Pakistan talks in Washington on regional security and nuclear non-proliferation as "constructive and positive" and said that he sensed a "breath of fresh air" from Clinton Administration in addressing bilateral and regional issues. But is it a realistic assessment of the current state of Pak-US relation or a burst of overoptimism?

Soon after the end of Afghan war the US President refused to certify Pakistan's innocence and invoking Pressler Law suspended all economic and military assistance to this country. Since October 1990 when the certificate was first withheld no assurance by Pakistan that its nuclear programme is purely peaceful has been acceptable to Washington. Washington alleged that sometime in the spring of 1990 Pakistan crossed the nuclear red line and therefore fell within the mischief of Pressler Law. Pakistan has denied the charge insisting that its nuclear programme had been 'frozen' at the level of October 1989 the last time President Bush certified that Pakistan had not acquired nuclear weapons' capability. There has been no headway in the talks between the two countries on this issue during the past three years. In this perspective, what "breath of fresh air" has Mr. Shahryar sensed during his talks last week? Pakistan has been kept on the 'watch list' and threatened to be declared a terrorist state anytime. It was only in July last that the threat was lifted, temporarily though. Even this temporary respite was not granted until Pakistan had expelled Arab nationals in Peshawar fighting the Afghan jehad and retired rather unceremoniously two senior Army generals known for their pan-Islamic militaristic views. And more recently Washington imposed sanctions against both Pakistan and China for their alleged M-11 deal saying that it violated a US law on the transfer of missile technology. Pakistan says the missiles it obtained from China are well within the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) but Washington refuses to listen. It continues to rely only on its intelligence reports for imposing sanctions against us even though similar intelligence reports about a Chinese vessel suspected of carrying chemical weapons to Iran were disproved last week.

On the issue of narcotics, Islamabad has bent over backwards to please the US. News reports say that US Drug Enforcement Agency has been authorised to conduct raids and arrest drug barons in Pakistan. The caretaker Prime Minister after his return from Washington said that his government will hand over to the US the drug pushers whose extradition has been demanded. The Treaty of Extradition with the US is cited by the Prime Minister as the reason to allow the US government to try Pakistani citizens according to the US laws. But it does not occur to him to ask for the extradition to Pakistan of those Americans who are trading with Pakistani traffickers for trial under Pakistani laws. We have ignored the principle of sovereign equality of states bound by the Extradition Treaty only to please the Americans. This is capitulation of the worst form and not an element of "constructive and positive relationship" between the two countries which Mr. Shahryar wants the people to believe.

Washington has denied Islamabad the sale of F-16s for which over 600 million dollars have already been paid by Pakistan. For want of spare parts, the supply of which has been withheld by the US a couple of squadrons of F-16s have reportedly been grounded by the PAF [Pakistan Air Force]. More squadrons are feared to be grounded soon for the same reason. We are being threatened that we will lose all the money paid in advance if we refused to continue to pay future instalments for the aircrafts which have already been firmly denied to us. It

is 'the heads I win, tails you lose' situation and not a 'breath of fresh air,' in the relation between the two countries.

The factual position is that Mr. Shahryar could not do more than placing once again Pakistan's position on various issues in a correct perspective. Claiming anything beyond that is nothing but unrealistic overoptimism and an ostrich like approach.

Editorial Urges Dialogue With Washington

BK0609085993 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 5 Sep 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Talking to the U.S.]

[Text] How does one talk to a country thought by practically everyone in Pakistan to be our most unfair lord and master? Foreign Secretary Mian Shaheryar Khan is doing it in Washington while back home Qazi Hassain Ahmad says that all our non-elected leaders are slaves of Washington; and Mian Nawaz Sharif thinks that PPP is a branch of the great Zionist lobby in the United States. Yes, somewhere reality has to be accepted and someone in Islamabad has to fight against the anti-US and anti-West poison spewed by our own TV and radio on a daily basis. Pakistan has to talk to Washington about resumption of aid and trade now cut off under the Pressler law; it has to say that its stand on the bomb is still a better option for the world than India's; and it has to defuse some of the tension that has mounted after Pakistan's recent missiles deal with China.

Those who want to take on India and the US together are in error, but Pakistan's thinking is the thinking of Qazi Hussain Ahmad and General Hamid Gul and Finneral Asian Beg. The culprits are politicians who, besides being illiterate, will match others low IQ with total dereliction. They know Pakistan can't get on its hind legs, yet they swallow the bilge pushed by those who would fight the great battle for Pakistan against the entire world. The truth of the matter is that we have a better internationally acceptable posture on nuclear weapons in South Asia than India's. Why shouldn't we benefit from it by getting together with the world on the six-power conference which might even grow into a discussion of nuclear guarantees of some sort in return for a unilateral denuclearisation? A bomb that bothers the world because of its possible disappearance and reappearance elsewhere also bothers us because it destabilises our political system. We have to think differently, not the way India wants us to think. We have to think differently on Kashmir, more in the light of what the world thinks about it than our annexationist hawks think. Why not, if we can change the status quo like this, because we can't go to war with India without being defeated, General Hamid Gul's boasts to the contrary? The truth of the matter is that we are caught in a vise of permanent hostility with India and the only way India and Pakistan can finesse each other without going to war is by getthing the other to isolate itself internationally. That is why it is important for Pakistan to talk to Washington.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Role in Drug Raids

BK0609131993 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 5 Sep 93 p 10

[Editorial: "The Operation of an American Agency in Pakistan"]

[Text] Pakistan Narcotics Control Board and the American Drug Enforcement Administration conducted raids in Lahore last night [4 September] and arrested a number of people against whom there were charges of drug smuggling. Any step taken to discourage the production, trade, and smuggling of narcotics in the country is laudable, as it is a serious crime. As Pakistanis, we should make every possible effort to eradicate this menace. However, we ourselves should accomplish this task, considering it our responsibility and duty. Taking any step under duress or at anybody's behest can create problems. Empowering any American agency to conduct raids in Pakistan is an unpleasant procedure that will not receive support from any quarters. Pakistan is an independent and sovereign country, and it has machinery to effectively implement national and international laws. However, the present government, which has already been the target of a propaganda that it is functioning at the beck and call of the United States, has created several problems for the country and the nation by giving permission to an American agency to conduct raids and interrogate some persons in Punjab. Will we remain silent, even if another powerful country in the future sends its agency into Pakistan under some pretext or other and starts arresting wanted persons? Will the United States grant permission to Pakistan to send its force to that country to arrest the Americans involved in the heroin trade and those accomplices of Pakistani drug traffickers? The Government of Pakistan should demonstrate some courage and make it clear to the United States that we are ready to devote all our resources to take action against the drug traffickers. However, the United States should neither try to give us orders nor should it constrain us to deal with the trouble of sending its officers to Pakistan, considering Pakistan as its territory. It is not that easy for Washington to send its federal agencies to any of its own states with the ease with which it has launched operations in Pakistan.

U.S. 'Arm-Twisting' Decried

BK0909105593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 9 Sep 93 p 6

[Editorial: "A Quid Pro Quo"]

[Text] Recently the US government has asked the Pakistan government to extradite a number of drug smugglers who are wanted in America for their alleged involvement in the drug dealings in America. In compliance with the wishes of the American government our government

launched a massive operation against our drug dealers. All agencies including the army were activated and so thorough was the operation that nearly all the drug barons fled the country and took shelter in Afghanistan or Central Asia. They will lie low till the storm blows over. In the meanwhile the American pressure on our government to check the narcotics export to America continues unabated.

People of Pakistan resent this one sided arm twisting and rightly say that any kind of deal whether it involved the illegal trade in drugs or any other legitimate trade involves two parties—the buyer and the seller. If there is a Pakistani drug dealer smuggling drugs to America. There must be a counterpart in America who receives the drugs for retail sale in the US. All these contraband drugs have to pass through the US Customs authorities to enter America. The Pakistan drug smuggler is one link in the long chain of the drug trade. It is a manifest injustice to pick on the Pakistani smuggler while nothing is said or done about the American counterparts. The American receiver, Customs officials, retail traders on the streets of American cities are exonerated and only the Pakistani exporter is held guilty for the drug trade in America.

"While attending to our end of the drug trade we insist that America deal firmly its own drug dealers and smugglers. We have asked our drug investigating agencies to name American drug dealers who are wanted for trial in Pakistan. While we are prepared to deal with our own drug dealers and are determined to try them here and if found guilty to award them exemplary punishment, we do not see any justification in sending our citizens accused of dealing in drugs for trial in America. Such an act would reflect adversely on our sovereignty. How would American public opinion react if we requested the American government to extradite American citizens involved in the drug trade in Pakistan. Our Narcotics Control agencies do have evidence of the involvement of US citizens in drug operations in Pakistan. Would the US government agree to a quid pro quo in this matter? If the US does not reciprocate then we would be justified in refusing American request for extradition of Pakistani citizens to the US.

We would urge the American government, if it is really serious in preventing the entry of all harmful drugs into America, to seal its borders and tighten its vigilance over all points of entry. It has every right to punish all those guilty of breaking US laws, but it should leave it to us to deal with our citizens guilty of drug dealing. The US is well-equipped with all its sophisticated scientific devices to detect and prevent the entry and movement of drugs in America. It should not expect us to do the job which it is unable to do itself.

Effects of Indian-PRC Agreement Viewed

BK0909111193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 9 Sep 93 p 7

[Editorial: "Indo-Chinese Pact: Impact on Pakistan"]

[Text] The signing of a pact by Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng and his Indian counterpart Narasimha Rao is a major breakthrough in Sino-Indian relations. This news may not be entirely welcomed by Islamabad. The far-ranging agreement calls for a reduction of troops along the Sino-Indian border, the opening of a border crossing, and the possibility of enhanced trade. The Sino-Indian dispute, simmering since the violent confrontation in 1962, has allowed Pakistan to breathe a little easier in the past. As long as tension remained along the Sino-Indian border, fewer troops were available to Delhi on its western front. Of immediate concern to Pakistan will be the fact that troops moved away from the northern borders might be redeployed in Indian occupied Kashmir. Earlier this summer, India has already deployed two more divisions in occupied Kashmir, all veterans at mountain warfare.

Pakistan has always considered China an important ally integral to its vital defence industry. Recently, China even had to bear the brunt of US displeasure for alledgely violating the Missile Technology Control Regime by supplying M11 related technology to Pakistan, a charge denied by both Beijing and Islamabad. China's pact with India should be of concern to us, but there is no need to press panic buttons. China has stood by Pakistan under adverse circumstances in the past and the bond between the two is not going to be disrupted overnight. Relations between Beijing and Islamabad have been on an even keel with no strains that precede a rupture in ties.

At any rate, the pact signed on Tuesday has not resolved the rootcause of the Indo-China land dispute. Both countries have pledged to respect the Line of Actual Control, but there will be no actual redrawing of the map. In many ways, this reduction in tensions may eventually prove to be a blessing for Pakistan. If India is willing to scale-down its level of hostility with China, the next logical step would be to change its belligerent stand vis-a-vis Pakistan, especially on the Kashmir front. Additionally, if China's ties with India deepen, Beijing is in an ideal position to mediate between its two South Asian neighbours.

Islamabad must ensure that its relations with Beijing are not weakened by this development China has been a cornerstone of our foreign policy for decades and it is imperative that these links continue to flourish. In recent years the thrust of our foreign policy has been westwards or to the fabled lands of Central Asia. Our economic future certainly lunges on finding markets amongst our Muslims friends in the former Soviet republics and on economic cooperation with Turkey and Iran. But we must not let our relationship with China float into an attitude of benign disregard. Reduction in regional tensions is of benefit to all. Pakistan's interests are not directly threatened by this pact.

Trade Relations Resumed With South Africa

BK0909054393 Karachi DAWN in English 7 Sep 93 p 18

[By Mohammad Aslam]

[Text] Karachi—Pakistan's merchant flag vessels, loaded with export consignments are expected to sail into South African ports some time next month as the caretaker government has, in principle, decided to lift the over two-decade, unsponsored trade ban in protest against the policy of apartheid that South Africa pursued in the past and its persecution of the black majority.

In a communication to major trade bodies and business houses in response to some queries, the Foreign Ministry has indicated that the ban has been lifted but a formal announcement will be made early next month.

Official sources said the State Bank was working out a loan and guidelines for prospective exporters and importers as resumption of trade with South Africa may involve some fundamental policy changes as compared to other African countries, with which Pakistan has already good trade relations.

Pakistan's exporters are already exporting a number of commodities, including textiles to South Africa, through third country arrangements but this has proved an expensive affair, making export goods non-competitive, business sources said.

"Though slightly sophisticated, South Africa is a big sellers' market for many product lines," said a leading exporter.

"But more important is that Pakistani exporters will have an opportunity to move out of the cobweb of western quota mechanisms and, for once, have a fair measure of manoeuvring options," he added.

Pakistan exports to more than three dozen African countries totalled well over Rs 3 billion and incidentally, the country has a favourable trade balance with most of them.

"A major breakthrough toward entering the vast African market might be achieved once a strong foothold is made on the South African soil," an exporter predicted.

What is more encouraging is that the South African Muslim chamber of Commerce and Industry, which controls over 50 percent of the trade of the region, has offered all-out support to its Pakistani counterpart.

Pakistan could sell virtually anything, from primary to finished goods, to this part of the world after making Johanesburg its main launching pad and distributing outlet, Muslim traders of South Africa believe.

Pakistan has now Taiwan-like trade relations with South Africa, with the bulk of the transactions being done through a third country.

The beginning was made early this year when a Lahore-based big business delegation visited South Africa, at the invitation of the South African Muslim Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with a view to resume trade relations between the two countries.

Business sources said a delegation of South African Muslim chamber of Commerce and Industry was due here in early April to have first-hand information on what Pakistan could sell to South Africa but political turmoil did not allow the proposed visit to materialise.

Welcoming the official moves, a top businessman said: "If the Pakistan cricket team can play against the South Africans, why can't we trade with them?"

Qureshi Addresses News Conference on Domestic Issues

BK0909145093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, has said that his government will not compromise on the country's integrity and defense. Addressing a news conference in Peshawar this afternoon, the prime minister said all resources would be mobilized by the government to make the country's defense impregnable. Mr. Moin Qureshi said the best way to achieve this objective is to make our country so strong that no one could cast an evil eye to its sovereignty.

[Begin Qureshi] There are forces, there are domestic forces too, and there are external forces which will try to create conflict, which will try to create rift within the country and dissension prior to elections. There have been incidents already. I can tell you that we must be on our guard. We will try to do whatever we can to stop this terrorism. [end recording]

Mr. Moin Qureshi said no privatization will be carried out against the wishes of the provinces as he desires to take every step with national consensus.

[Begin Qureshi recording] This government will not do anything in which there is not a consensus, a total consensus, between the federal government and the provincial government. I consider the provincial governments to be a part of a team and, therefore, I will never take a step to which the provincial government is fundamentally opposed because I think that would be a wrong thing to do. I make no difference between the interest of the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] and the interest of Pakistan, or the interest of Balochistan, or of Sindh, or any other part of Pakistan, and the country as a whole. We have to begin to look at our country as one unity. [end recording]

During his stay in Peshawar, Mr. Moin Qureshi also addressed the NWFP cabinet. In his speech, he dwelt on the measures the government has taken to hold elections and improve the economic situation of the country. He hoped that the coming elected government would further

strengthen the economic measures taken by this government. He said the caretaker government assumed powers at a time when the country was about to collapse economically. He said the government had to take drastic steps to redress the poor economic situation and to check the rate of inflation.

Further on News Conference

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[Text] Prime Minister Moin Qureshi has said that his government will never compromise on the country's security and defense. Addressing a news conference in Peshawar this afternoon [9 September], he said all resources will be mobilized by his government to meet defense requirements in order to make the country's defense impregnable. Moin Qureshi said the best way to maintain peace is to make Pakistan so strong that no power could have the courage to launch an aggression against her. The prime minister said:

[Begin Qureshi recording in English] My feeling is that military expenditures are obviously very large. They take up a very large part of our total budget. And I would wish that they were lower. But today, the military expenditures in Pakistan in real terms are 7 percent lower than they were last year. If you take account of the fact that previously we were getting a great deal of our equipment free, or at a very very low cost from the United States, and that that is now totally stopped, and we have to buy even the spare parts ourselves at exorbitant prices, then I shall tell you that to continue military expenditures within the present level is a heroic task. But, I tell you one other thing: That while I am an economic expert, while I am prepared to do everything to improve the economics of this country, I am not going to compromise the security and defense of this country under any circumstances. And today I know that if you look at conventional arms, Pakistan is spending about one-fifth of the money that India is spending on military expenditures, and, as a result, we are much weaker than India is. Under these circumstances, I think to save on military expenditures would be to play with fire. It would be to compromise our defense and our security and that is my first priority. If we are strong, we are independent, we are free, then we can do anything we want to within the country. But we must never compromise that whatever the circumstances. [end recording]

The prime minister reiterated that the government is not taking any steps to retrench government employees or to reduce their retirement age from 60 to 58 years. The government, however, will definitely reorganize the civil administration to improve its performance. Moin Qureshi said the caretaker government has made administrative changes from top to bottom so there is no room for any irregularities during the elections.

Answering a question, Moin Qureshi said the government has directed the banks to realize loans from all defaulters, including those taking part in elections. He said if the defaulters do not pay back their loans, the government will confiscate their assets. The prime minister said his government favors a policy of consensus and will not privatize the Water and Power Development Authority without the consent of the North-West Frontier Province government. He said a meeting of the Council of Common Interests will be held in Islamabad soon, to discuss the development schemes of the provinces and other important issues. He said his government has taken several steps to control inflation, and in this regard the people are being provided with daily consumer goods at reasonable prices through utility stores and Friday bazaars.

Answering a question, the prime minister said that efforts are continuing to assist the Afghan refugees in returning to their homeland. Earlier, addressing the North-West Frontier Province cabinet, Moin Qureshi urged the caretaker cabinet to work with full sincerity and dedication to fulfill the promise of holding free, fair, impartial, and transparent elections. He stressed the need to eliminate corruption from society and expressed the hope that the provincial administration will work toward achieving this objective.

Later, the prime minister was briefed on the overall law and order situation and arrangements being made for upcoming elections. He was also informed of development activities in the province and in the Federally Administered Tribal Area. The prime minister also inspected the Army Public College being constructed at (Warsath) Road, where he was briefed on the special features of the college. The first phase of the construction of the college, which will cost 55 million rupees, is expected to be completed by December this year.